# Hafa Adail Salpan Iribune

Volume XXIX. Issue No. 174

www.saipantribune.com

**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3. 2019** 

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# New problem awaits green card aspirants

By MARC A. VENUS Marc\_venus@saipantribune.com

reen card applicants will be faced with a problem with their medical examination once U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services begins accepting a newer edition of its Form I-693 starting Sept. 23.

## Boat owner frets over fees to use the temporary dock

By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com

One boat owner is concerned about the charge that boat owners will have to pay to use the temporary dock at the Smiling Cove Marina, saying this will impact his business and how they put a price on their services.

A representative of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources said, however, that



imposing fees on the transient dock is necessary to ensure better services.

This comes soon after DLNR announced last week that it would be halting all commercial activities at the Outer Cove Marina due to safety issues.

In a meeting with boat owners Thursday evening to discuss the planned closure of the Outer Cove Marina, DLNR Secretary Anthony Benavente said the new transient dock within the Smiling Cove Marina, will charge \$3 per boat passenger and a monthly fee of \$15 per foot of the vessel.

The new fees, however, will set one boat owner back \$600 a day just to operate. The boat owner, who asked to remain anonymous, noted that these new fees will set his company

Form I-693 is the Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record, which is required for those applying for

According to the USCIS website, starting Sept. 23, 2019, the office will only accept the July 15, 2019 edition See PROBLEM on Page 4

## China tells PH it will not recognize ruling on sea row

**BEIJING** (AP)—Chinese President Xi Jinping told his Philippine counterpart that Beijing will not recognize an international arbitration ruling that has invalidated most of China's claims to virtually the entire South China Sea, the Philippine leader's spokesman said.

The row over the disputed waters-a major global

shipping route thought to be rich in oil and gas reserves has for years marred China's relationship with the Philippines and other neighboring countries with rival territorial claims. Beijing has transformed a string of disputed reefs into missile-protected island bases.

Philippine President See CHINA on Page 4



By ERWIN ENCINARES

The Commonwealth Casino back over \$1,000 monthly on Commission is looking to

tional (CNMI) LLC a total of \$375,000 for their late payment of the annual casino license renewal fee.

See BOAT on Page 4 fine Imperial Pacific Interna- Edward Deleon Guerrero \$15 million.

told Saipan Tribune Saturday that his office will be imposing a fine of \$25,000 for each day that IPI failed to pay the executive director casino license renewal fee of

With a total of 15 days' delay, IPI will be ordered to pay a total of \$375,000, according to Deleon Guerrero.

On the day of the deadline See \$375K on Page 4

#### INSIDE =



#### **BUSINESS**

Bonitan Tasi Design was a way for Christi Warn to nurture her creativity and her roots.

**PAGE 13** 



#### NATION

A handful of miles may make a huge difference in Hurricane Dorian's slow dance with Florida.

**PAGE 14** 



#### LIFE & STYLE

In "Ad Astra," Brad Pitt says there's a lot more going on beneath the surface.

**PAGE 19** 



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# Local

# Jeffrey Sablan is CNMI govt's Employee of the Year



By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com

Commonwealth Health Care Corp. employee of the year Jeffrey Sablan was named the CNMI government's overall employee of the year for 2019.

Sablan was awarded the 2019 CNMI Government Employee of the Year plum last Saturday morning during the annual CNMI government's Labor Day celebration at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Although Sablan himself was unable to collect the two plaques—one recognizing him as CHCC employee of the year and another as overall CNMI government employee of the year—his mother Bernie S. Cabrera was able to collect it for him.

"I am very proud that the committee did their part and for coming up with the best candidate for this occasion," she told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

"Rain or shine, he goes [to work]," she added in a testament to how hardworking her son is.

Sablan works with the hospital's vaccine supply management, particularly in storage and distribution.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna told *Saipan Tribune* that Sablan, exemplifies the work ethic of many CHCC employees and other public service employees in the CNMI.

"[Sablan] has great commit-

ment to public service. Many of us find him with always a smile on his face, despite any situation. During the [Super] Typhoon Yutu response, there [was] obviously a lot of stress going on but you won't see that when you're speaking to [him]," she said.

According to Cabrera, her son was unable to make it back to Saipan on time for the Labor Day celebration because he is currently in tran-

sit. She noted that Sablan had been working at CHCC for over seven years now.

Twenty-nine other employees of the year for other government agencies include Department of Commerce's Frances B. Pangelinan, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Dolores Cruz, Department of Corrections' Leo Galarse, Department of Finance's Neimakua Blanco, Department of Fire

and Emergency Medical Services Juan Camacho, Department of Labor's Frances Torres, Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Rudy Camacho, Department of Public Lands' Mai Chong, Department of Public Safety's Arnold Seman Jr., Department of Public Works' Franklin Iguel, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Richard Salas, Civil Service Commission Office of Personnel

Management's Marlene Cruz, CNMI Legislative Bureau's Frances Joan Kaipat, CNMI Scholarship Office's Jovene Ogo, Commonwealth Casino Commission's Juanette Sablan, Commonwealth Development Authority's Frederick Cruz, Commonwealth Ports Authority's Pauline Camacho, Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Herbit Villagomez, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Gerard Borja, Northern Mari-

urday, according to committee

ment employees and their

families attending, Cabrera

"Everybody

With over 2,000 govern-

chair Eli Cabrera.

anas Housing Corp.'s Melinda Babauta, Office of the Attorney General's Carla Torres, Office of Management and Budget's Nadia Benjamin, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's Jane Tudela, CNMI Museum's James Macaranas, Office of the Governor's Daisy Demapan and Chuzi Rios, Saipan Mayor's Office's Yuki Kishimoto, and Marianas Visitors Authority's Demalynn Pagarao.

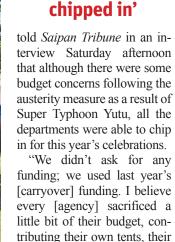
## Cabrera: Yutu affected Labor Day planning

By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com

Although the 2019 Labor Day
Committee worked hardly
without any budget, they were

still able to pull through for this year's celebration at the Garapan Fishing Base last Sat-



thing," he told *Saipan Tribune*. He explained that there was only about \$2,000 left over from last year's annual Labor Day celebration. This year, his committee still has about \$1,200 for next year.

own coolers, their own every-

"We are here to have fun and I want every agency to celebrate the hard labor of each and every employee. Let's have fun and let's sit down and...keep moving forward," he said.

Cabrera noted that funding was the main concern plaguing the committee. "The only concern was I was worried where to find funding for this event. ... We had some money left over from last year and... we still have some money left over from this year," he noted.

"We are looking forward to a better year next year," he said, adding that he is looking to approach the CNMI Legislature when the CNMI finances improves for next year's Labor Day celebrations. If not, he said he would consider asking each department to raise their own funds for the celebration.

"I would like to see every department involved. This year, everybody chipped in and [helped]," he noted.



Labor Day Committee chair Eli Cabrera delivers his remarks this year's celebration at the Garapan Fishing Base last Saturday.

MARC VENUS

# Convicted murderers reapply for parole

By MARC A. VENUS

marc\_venus@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Parole will be determining the parole reapplication of two convicted murders.

The board will be holding a parole hearing tomorrow and Thursday, as they will determine the parole applications

of a total of five prisoners.

The Board of Parole will be determining the parole applications of Ezra Deleon Guerrero, George Langu, Laraad Ramangmo, Jesse James Camacho, and Shawn Appleby. The board will also be holding a revocation hearing for Nicholas Cabrera.

application of Appleby and Camacho in June 2017.

Deleon Guerrero is currently serving a 30-year prison term for killing Jae Soung Shim in May 2009. The victim was repeatedly hit with a tangan-tangan stick to the head numerous times after robbing the victim's store, New Star The board denied the parole Market, in Tanapag.

Langu is currently serving a 10-year prison term for breaking into a house and raping his 16-year-old neighbor.

Ramangmou was arrested with Johnalyn Salas for burglarizing and ransacking an apartment in Navy Hill in May 2017.

Appleby is currently serving a 40-year prison term for killing Byung Ok Suh in November 1996 after robbing the victim's store, Chalan Market, in San Antonio. Appleby bolted from prison on Oct. 10, 1999, with two other inmates. He was later sentence to a year in prison, on top of his 40-year sentence.

Camacho was the mastermind in the killing of a 13-year-old boy in Dandan in April 1998. He was sentenced in 1999 to 45 years in prison. The victim was stabbed 37 times in his own home as part of initiation rites for membership in the so-called Red Rum Gang. Camacho's codefendants, both minors at the time, entered a plea deal with the government and were sentenced to two years each.

# Teachers urged to be allies of LGBTQ+ youth

By MARC A. VENUS

marc\_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Many youths who identify with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community are often harassed or assaulted at a rate that is twice higher than their peers.

For that reason alone, teachers should be an ally of the LGBTQ+ community, said Pride Marianas Youth cofounder Dr. Jennifer Maratita.

Speaking to primary and secondary teachers last Tuesday at Marianas High School during the welcoming ceremony for Public School System teachers, Maratita said that teachers, as trailblazers of the education system, have the ability to change all the challenges that the LGBTQ+

**SINCE 1949** 



MARC A VENUS

Teachers of the Public School System listen to Dr. Jennifer Maratita's speech last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Cafeteria. PSS held a welcoming ceremony for its teachers last week to get started, as classes begin today.

youth face.

She said many LGBTQ+ youth do not feel safe, have been harassed, or even assaulted. "Many of our LGBTQ+ youth report that [these attacks] are part of their daily lives" Maratita said, and many of these youth deal with exclusion, sadness, and hopelessness.

Maratita urged teachers to provide "a voice to those who haven't found their yet, for those who have the courage to be themselves every day in a world that tells you to be someone else."

By becoming an ally of the LGBTQ+ community, teachers will be showing the youth that their teachers are aware of the issues that they face and will accept the role of providing a voice for these children, Maratita added...

"Some of these kids are feeling that resources don't exist, or parents are unsure of

how to respond or seek support," she said.

There are support systems like the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Program and the Community Guidance Center, but this issue is only the beginning of some challenges face by the LGBTQ+ youth community, she said.

She indicated that pride in the LGBTQ+ community includes the promotion of selfaffirmation, dignity, equality, and increased visibility. "Pride in the LGBTQ+ community also means to celebrate our differences" she said.

For those who need support, contact the following: National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255; The Trevor Project, 24-hour hotline at 1-866-488-7386 or visit TheTrevorProject.org/ help; and Crisis Text Line, text HOME to 741-741.

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Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, left, and Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, meet at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2019

#### CHINA

From Page 1

Rodrigo Duterte has largely avoided the subject in favor of seeking warmer ties with Beijing. But under domestic pressure, Duterte raised the issue in talks with Xi in Beijing this

week, Duterte spokesman Salvador Panelo said in a statement Friday.

Duterte told Xi that the 2016 ruling of an international arbitration panel in The Hague, in which China had refused to participate, "is final, binding and not subject to appeal."

"In response, President Xi reiterated his government's position of not recognizing the arbitral ruling as well as not budging from its position," Panelo said.

"Both President Duterte and President Xi agreed that while their variant positions will have to remain, their differences

however need not derail nor diminish the amity between the two countries," he added.

He said that Duterte raised the possible joint exploration of resources between the Philippines and China, and both leaders agreed on the importance of self-restraint and respect of freedom of

navigation.

Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana asked Beijing earlier this month to explain the activities of Chinese research vessels and warships in what the Philippines claims as its waters, and accused China of "bullying."

Lorenzana said China did not ask for permission to send several warships through the Sibutu Strait at the southern tip of the Philippine archi-

pelago on four occasions between February and July. He said two Chinese research ships have also been operating in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

Meanwhile, Philippine military spokesman Brig. Gen. Edgard Arevalo accused China of "duplicity," saying the Chinese warships shut off their identification transponders while passing through Philippine waters to avoid radar detection.

#### **PROBLEM**

From Page 1

of Form I-693. Until then, applicant can continue to provide USCIS with the Oct. 19, 2017, edition of the form.

The most significant change in the newly amended form is the removal of the "tuberculin skin test," leaving only the "interferon gamma release assay test" as the only test for tuberculosis. There is no site in the CNMI

that offers this test.

In an interview with the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. spokesperson Zoe Travis, she said that the CNMI's only hospital, the Commonwealth Health Center, is not able to perform the interferon gamma release assay test. She informed Saipan Tribune that the nearest U.S. location to avail of this test would be in Honolulu, Hawaii.

"Offering this testing requires an environment like Hawaii or the [U.S.] mainland

due to the testing process," she said. The testing process requires not only immediate processing, but is also influenced by the volume of testing performed, which is not achievable at CHC.

She said that Guam also does not have this lab test.

With these implications beginning on Sept. 23, future citizenship applicants are left wondering about the possibilities open to them. A future applicant who requested anonymity is wondering about

solutions to this matter, as this person's child is turning 21 this October and would qualify the child, who is a U.S. citizen, to petition his or her parents for U.S. citizenship.

"Going to the U.S. mainland is already expensive, and now that we have the opportunity to apply for a green card, we have to find another way to avail of this test and I'm not even sure if [a nearby county such as the Philippines] will be a good solution for this exam," the person said.

#### **BOAT**

From Page 1

the use of the transient dock and \$600 daily in passenger fee since he serves about 200 passengers to and from Managaha Island. His vessel also provides marine sports activities for tourists.

"My boat has a deep draft and is over 60 feet. Multiply that by \$15 sets my company back over \$900 monthly," he said. "I serve about 200 passengers daily, so that is an additional \$600."

"Where will I get the funding for these fees? Of course, from the end users—the tourists. This will force us to increase our rates. I don't think the tourists will like this," he said. The boat owner currently prices his services at around \$10 for tourists going to Managaha.

"We might as well shut down operations," he added.

Gus Kaipat of DLNR explained to Saipan Tribune that the department needs the funds to buy back the transient dock from the U.S. National

Park Service.

"...In order for us to use the transient dock, which was built originally for non-commercial use, we have to buy it back," he said, adding that DLNR had already signed an agreement with the NPS to buy back the dock.

"[The agreement] allowed for us to come up with regulations for us to proceed and allow commercial boaters to use the transient dock for loading and unloading purposes," he said.

"Nothing is free. When you are utilizing a government facility, you have to pay he added.

The transient dock is located near the Department of Public Safety boating facility.

While the use of the transient dock isn't mandated, Benavente said Thursday evening that those who wish to continue using the Outer Cove Marina may do so only after seeking approval from DLNR and after signing a liability waiver form. And only for personal use, not commercial activities.

#### \$375K From Page 1

to pay, IPI paid only \$5.5 million. The CCC gave IPI until Aug. 27, 2019, to settle the matter; IPI paid the remaining amount on Aug. 27.

"IPI was able to settle on Aug. 27, 2019. If you count starting from Aug.12, 2019 [IPI's payment deadline], it amounts to a total of 15 days," Deleon Guerrero said.

Although the agency is decided on imposing a fine, he noted that he still needs to bring the order to the full commission at their monthly meeting to formally accept the imposition.

"I need to bring it to the commission in the September monthly meeting. We need their blessings for the stipulating order," he said. "The commission needs to review and tions between IPI and CCC approve the stipulation but... [the commissioners] have accepted the stipulation and they understand that this is a violation."

According to Deleon Guerrero, CCC is given the authority to either issue a warning to IPI or fine them up to \$50,000 per violation of the Casino License Agreement.

Deleon Guerrero noted that IPI had cited several reasons for the delay, most notably the \$10 million that IPI already paid to the Department of Public Lands as an advanced deposit for a previous attempt to float a bond. That was not consummated, he added.

"Based on communicaand IPI and DPL, they [IPI] were trying to get the \$10 million back for the partial payment of the 2019 annual license fee. That's why they paid the \$5 million, thinking that DPL would return the \$10 million," he said. "... But that's not CCC's problem. CCC is saying [IPI] must pay on Aug. 12, 2019, and that's it. We are not going to get involved on whether or not DPL will refund you or not."

"If you fail to pay, CCC takes the position that you violate the Casino License Agreement," he added.

Finance Secretary David Atalig confirmed with Saipan Tribune last Aug. 27 that IPI succeeded in settling its remaining balance, pay ing \$10.5 million before they exhausted the 15 days the department and the CCC gave them. IPI paid only \$5.5 million on Aug. 13, 2019, while their deadline to pay the annual obligation is every Aug. 12, 2019.

In total, IPI paid \$16 million. CCC previously added that it must pay an additional \$502,000 to reflect adjustments to the consumer price index, so IPI paid about \$500,000 in excess.

The U.S. Ambassador holds a reception for the Guam Visitors Bureau delegation last Aug. 27. From left, Jeffrey Cook, first gentleman of Guam; Joseph M. Young, interim chargé d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy; Guam Gov. Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero; P. Sonny Ada, Guam Visitors Bureau board chairman; and Pilar Laguaña, GVB president and chief executive officer. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### Guam governor joins GVB delegation to woo Japan



The Guam Visitors Bureau delegation meets with representatives of the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau last Aug. 26, in Tokyo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TUMON, **Guam**—Guam Gov. Lou A. Leon Guerrero led a Guam Visitors Bureau delegation to Tokyo, Japan, in the final week of August to introduce Guam's new leaders to Japan since she took office in February 2019.

The trip, which took place from Aug. 5 to 28, was intended to introduce Guam's new leaders to Japan's trade partners, express thanks to those who have invested in Guam, and possible flights to Haneda in the future.

Besides Leon Guerrero, others on the Guam delegation were GVB board chair P. Sonny Ada, GVB president and chief executive officer Pilar Laguaña, GVB vice chairman and Air Service Development Committee chair Milton Morinaga and several other key GVB board representatives.

There were meetings with the Japan Association of Travel Agents, the Japan Tourism Agency, and Japan Civil Aviation Bureau, plus a reception at the U.S. Ambassador's residence in Akasaka, Tokyo.

Of the 5.6 million Japanese visitor arrivals to the United States in 2018. Guam accounted for about 17%.

U.S. Embassy interim chargé d'affaires Joseph M. Young welcomed the Guam delegation at the U.S. Ambassador's residence.

"Guam is the gateway to the United States and a very familiar destination for Japanese people," he said.

A highlight of the evening was the introduction of Guam's new executive leadership and GVB's newly contracted Japan marketing representative.

Leon Guerrero said it was absolutely essential for the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau to understand Guam's "strong

and very clear position that we continue to seek any opportunities to secure a slot out of Haneda airport."

"Japan has long been an integral part of the tourism industry for our beautiful island and we must plan for a sustainable visitor economy," she added.

Leon Guerrero said it was important to express Guam's deep appreciation for the business that members of JATA send to Guam. Approximately 70% of Guam's Japanese visitors are from packages sold by JATA members.

Ada said, "It is important to have our leadership express the utmost commitment to our key industry partners who are responsible for helping us sell over 830,000 seats annually. We have been able to demonstrate, that with their help, we were able to turn the market around and regain market losses experienced in the last two years. We are seeing significant movement in improving our market position because of these partners and investors."

Guam is approximately a three-hour flight from Japan. There are currently four airlines operating 64 flights per week directly from Japan to Guam. In addition, there are 800 charter flights being scheduled in 2019.

Laguaña noted that Guam must do all it can to attract more air seat inventory and fill those seats to regain Guam's market position in Japan. "Due to the volatile industry that we are in, we must continue to go after more air seats. We must equally ensure that our product, as a destination, is prepared to welcome our visitors and generate economic benefit for our island community." (GVB)



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# Request to modify \$100K cash bail is denied

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho denied Friday a bid to modify a \$100,000 cash bail imposed on a graduate of the CNMI Drug Court Program who was recently rearrested for allegedly trafficking in methamphetamine.

In a separate hearing Friday, Camacho also denied a motion to modify the \$100,000 cash bail imposed on another defendant, Marwin Borja Camacho, who was re-arrested recently for trafficking in methamphetamine. He was represented Friday by David G. Banes.

Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government in the case against both Joseph Torres White and Marwin Camacho.

In refusing to modify

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RFP19-CHCC/CGC-021

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\*MANDATORY ASSESSMENT ON AUGUST 29, 2019 @ 9:00 A.M. SAIPAN TIME @ COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER, GLORIA DRIVE, NAVY HILL

White's bail, Associate Judge Joseph A. Camacho noted the seriousness of the charges against White, and pointed out that he is a graduate of the CNMI Drug Court Program.

No information was provided as to when White graduate from the Drug Court Program.

Joseph Camacho said the court needs more information and conditions in the request for bail modification.

White, 28, was remanded into the custody of the Department of Corrections after the hearing.

White waived his right for a preliminary hearing and will be arraigned on Sept. 9.

The Office of the Attorney General charged White with one count of trafficking of a controlled substance for allegedly selling methamphetamine last Feb. 1 on Saipan.

According to Drug Enforcement Task Force, a "cooperating source" disclosed that White is actively distributing meth or "ice" and is known to be one of the main sources of meth on Saipan.

White allegedly sold 0.1 gross gram of meth to a "cooperating source" of the task force during a "buy walk" operation at a parking lot of a poker establishment in San Jose last Feb. 1.

DETF officers arrested White last Feb. 20. White then agreed to assist law enforcers in the investigation of drug activities. In exchange, law enforcers agreed to release him subject to certain conditions.

DETF said that White stopped communicating with them and helping law enforcement, which violates his agreement. This prompted the government to request the court to revoke the agreement and re-arrest White.

In Marwin Camacho's case, Joseph Camacho denied defense counsel Tiandouwa Yuan's motion to allow the defendant to be released to his father and girlfriend, who will serve as third-party custodians upon posting a \$10,000 property bond.

Joseph Camacho noted that the defendant had multiple

past criminal cases and requires more supervision. The judge said the defendant needs another third-party custodian in addition to his father.

Marwin Camacho waived his right to a preliminary hearing; his arraignment will be on Sept. 9. After the hearing, he was remanded into the custody of DOC.

The OAG charged Marwin Camacho with trafficking of a controlled substance for allegedly selling meth on Oct. 22, 2018, on Saipan.

According to the DETF, a "cooperating source" disclosed that Marwin Camacho is involved in drug distribution in Chalan Kanoa.

Marwin Camacho allegedly agreed to sell 0.2 gross grams of "ice" worth \$100 to the "cooperating source" during a buy-walk operation on Oct. 22, 2018, on Saipan.

Marwin Camacho, however, allegedly sent Paul Anthony Lizama to hand over the meth to the "cooperating source" along As Perdido Road in Chalan Piao/Chalan Kanoa.

DETF officers arrested Marwin Camacho that same day. He, however, agreed to assist law enforcement in the investigation of drug activities. He was released subject to some conditions.

The government, however, asked the court to revoke his release and re-arrest him for allegedly not providing substantial assistance and accurate information to law enforcers. He was recently re-arrested. (Ferdie de la Torre)

#### CHCC: Breastfeeding also has economic benefits

If 90% of U.S. families follow guidelines to breastfeed exclusively for six months, the U.S. would save \$13 billion a year from reduced medical and other costs.

This finding, and others, published last year in the journal *Pediatrics*, were underscored in the celebration of World Breastfeeding Week, which was observed in the first week of August to promote longer breastfeeding durations.

According to the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. and the CNMI Women, Infants, and Children program, families that follow optimal breastfeeding practices can save between \$1,200 and \$1,500 in expenditures on infant formula in the first year alone.

These are on top of the health benefits of breastfeeding, said CHCC spokesperson Zoe Travis. Among those benefits:

- Breastfeeding protects babies from infections and illnesses that include diarrhea, ear infections, and pneumonia.
- Breastfed babies are less likely to develop asthma.
- Children who are breastfed for six months are less

likely to become obese.

- Breastfeeding reduces the risk of sudden infant death syndrome.
- Mothers who breastfeed have a decreased risk of breast and ovarian cancers.

This year, World Breastfeeding Week was observed from Aug 1 to Aug. 7, with the theme "Empower Parents, Enable Breastfeeding.

For the final day of the celebration, WIC held a "onestop service event" at the WIC clinic on Navy Hill. It invited other CHCC programs and community partners to offer free services and provide education and program information. This event was able to assist 22 participants and their children.

CNMI WIC aims to promote and support breastfeeding, with the goal of making it accessible and equitable for mothers and babies in the CNMI. According to 2018 data, the WIC program's initiation rates are currently at their highest at about 94%. This meets the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthy People 2020 goal.

Despite high initiation rates

in 2018, only 38% of infants in the CNMI were still being breastfed at six months, which is lower than the national goal of 60%. This means that increasing duration rates is a major goal for WIC over the next three years, including a focus on workplace inclusivity when it comes to breastfeeding mothers.

Together with the National WIC Association, WIC aims is to help participants overcome breastfeeding barriers by providing optimal breastfeeding support. The program recently began doing home visits, where WIC breastfeeding counselors go to the homes of WIC moms to help them with their breastfeeding concerns in the setting where they are most comfortable. WIC feels that home visits and hospital visits, when WIC moms deliver, will help the program reach the goal of longer breastfeeding durations.

For those interested in learning more about WIC's breastfeeding goals and what support is offered, contact WIC Breastfeeding Services Counselor Luisa Santos at luisas@ cnmiwic.org or call (670) 664-4084. (Marc A. Venus)

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

#### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM



#### Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) in CNMI Public Schools Continues School Year 2019-2020

The Child Nutrition Program (CNP) is pleased to inform you that the CNMI Public School System will be continue implementing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) while participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs during School Year 2019-2020.

What does this mean for children attending CNMI public schools?

All students enrolled and attending CNMI public schools are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at school at no charge to your household each day of the 2019-2020 school year. Your child (ren) will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit a meal application. CEP applies to meals served at public schools only. Each student is allowed one free breakfast meal and one free lunch meal each school day while attending any of the 20 CNMI public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

#### What does this mean for children attending private school(s) or day care centers?

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) does not apply to students attending private schools and day care centers. In order for children attending these institutions to qualify for free school meals, the families must submit completed free meal applications and be determined eligible by the Child Nutrition Program.

#### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

Q1: One of my children attends public school and the other attends preschool at a day care center. Does my family have to submit an application for free meals?

A1: The student eating meals at public school does not require an approved application to avail of free school meals. The child attending the day care center is not eligible for free school meals without a free meal application approved by CNP. Make sure to include all household members on the application, including the students attending public schools. CEP benefits are not based on households, but on attendance at a CNMI public school. CEP benefits do not transfer to children attending private schools and day care centers.

Q2: My son attends a day care center in the morning and goes to kindergarten in the afternoon at a public school. Does my family have to submit an application for free meals?

chool. He is not eligible for free breakfast meals served at the day care without a free meal application approved by CNP. Free meal applications are available at the Child Nutrition Program office, House 1251 Capital Hill Road. Applications are also available on the PSS website (www.cnmipss.org/child-nutrition-program/).

Q3: My daughter brings her lunch to school each day and only wants a milk or bottled water and not a full meal from the cafeteria. Since all the kids eat for free can she just take bottled water and not a full meal?

A3: No. USDA guidelines specifically state that a meal is a complete unit, is priced as a unit, and must be served as a unit. If a student only wants a bottle of water, that can be purchased a la carte in the cafeteria. All no-cost meals must follow USDA meal patterns. The goal of the school meals program is to provide well-balanced and nutritious meals to students. A la carte is always available, and individual items like bottled water, chocolate milk, and fruit juice must be purchased. Drinking water is provided free of charge from dispensers located in every public school cafeteria.

Summary of CNMI PSS Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Specifics:

- 1. CEP benefits only apply to meals served at CNMI public schools
- 2. Each student is eligible to take one free breakfast and one free lunch each school day
- 3. As of now, CEP benefits do not apply to meals served in day care centers and private schools. 4. Free meals are served as a unit. A la carte items such as water and juice must be purchased separately.

For more information, please contact the PSS Child Nutrition Office at 664-3901, -3902, -3904 or visit the office located in House #1251 on Capital Hill (across from the CNMI Medicaid office).



#### PUBLIC NOTICE SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2019 AT 9:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD

AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS: Preliminary Matters A. Roll Call Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of Minutes
1. June 20, 2019 PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Executive Director's Report

Loan Matters

Judgment Debts Write-Offs

Litigation Report

Qualifying Certificate (QC) Program Matters/Economic Development Activities

B. Comptroller's Report OLD BUSINESS

Rent-to-Own Home Program A. Rent-to-Owi NEW BUSINESS

Adoption & Certification of Amendment to DCD Rules & Regulations CNMI's Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)

OTHER MATTERS

A. CDA Board Resolutions - Presentation
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. ADIOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

IGNACIO I. PEREZ

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ, F0122 THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC POST OFFICE BOX 5222

SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950 TEL.: (670) 234-6547 FAX: (670) 234-9637

ATTORNEY FOR Petitioner

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In the Matter of the of General Guardian for ) CIVIL ACTION IAN SHALMAR ) NO. 19-0197 IAN SHALMAR GUERRERO, a minor child.

#### **NOTICE**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that Kimberly Jean Rios Deleon Guerrero has filed a Petition, asking that Petitioner be appointed as the general guardian of IAN SHALMAR DELEON GUERRERO, a minor child; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on September 30, 2019, at the hour of 9:00 a.m. of the said day.

DATED: 8/23/2019

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

#### Construction firm settles suit over OSHA violations

A construction company has agreed to pay the U.S. government a little over \$36,000 to settle a lawsuit that seeks to collect penalties assessed against it for alleged occupational safety violations in 2013 and 2016.

For the first Occupational Safety and Health Administration inspection, Northpac Corp. agreed to pay \$27,894.43. For the second OSHA inspection, the company will pay \$8,537.90. In all, Northpac Corp. will pay \$36,432.33 within 90 days of the execution of the agreement. In exchange, the U.S. government is going to dismiss the lawsuit.

The original OSHA civil

penalty totaled \$39,489.

lawyer for Northpac Corp., Northpac Corp. general manager Miguel Cruz Jr., and assistant U.S. attorney Jessica F. Wessling, counsel for OSHA, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI last Friday that the parties in the case have reached a settlement.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has denied several motions submitted by a Russian national who is appealing the dismissal of his lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

In their order last week, Ninth Circuit Judges Atsushi Wallace Tashima and Mark J. Bennett said that Milan Fargo's motion for appointment of counsel is denied. The order also said the court will not entertain any motion for reconsideration, clarification, or modification of the denial.

Tashima and Bennett said that Fargo's motion for a declaratory order and motion for a jury trial are also denied.

The judges said Fargo's motion to correct the docket entry for his motion for a jury trial is denied as unnecessary.

The judges also denied Fargo's motion for production of transcripts at U.S. government's expense, and a motion for free access to PACER.

Only Fargo's motion to waive the paper copy requirement for his opening brief was granted.

The judges said all remaining motions are referred to the panel assigned to decide the merits of this appeal for whatever consideration the panel deems appropriate.

The judges said the briefing schedule previously estab-

#### Limited hours at OVR

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation is undergoing off-site monitoring review by its grantor, the Rehabilitation Services Administration. That means the office will be unavailable for external meetings other than those scheduled with clients on Sept. 5, Sept. 12, Sept. 19, Sept. 24, and Sept. 26, 2019. For more information, call (670) 322-6538. (PR)

Joaquin DLG Torres, the

For the first inspection, Northpac also agrees to provide the U.S. with a completed certification of corrective action worksheet, a written hazard communications program for hazardous chemicals such as Portland cement, and a safety data sheet for Portland cement within 14 days of execution of this agreement.

lished remains in effect.

about \$2.4 million.

priate \$3 million to the Public School System in response to one of two letters that PSS wrote the delegation. The

Failure to provide the docu-

ments shall void the compro-

mise settlement for the first

inspection, but will not affect

the compromise settlement for

Each party shall bear its

the other inspection.

SNILD chair Rep. John Paul "JP" Sablan (R-Saipan) said majority of the delegation agreed Friday to support the \$3-million request, as it will be used for the opening of

2018 they sent a letter agreeing to the offer of the U.S. Department of Labor-OSHA legal counsel Sonia Shao for a 50 percent reduction of the \$17,102 penalty, agreeing to settle by paying in full the \$4,940 and paying the remaining \$8,551 in installments of \$300 a month.

In its lawsuit, the U.S. government asked the court to hold Northpac Corp. liable to pay \$21,876.31 in the first violation and \$17,972.88 in the second violation, for a total of \$39,849.19 as of April 10, 2019, plus interest and costs. (Ferdie de la Torre)

#### SNILD to work on \$3M appropriation for PSS

Cruz said that on May 30,

own costs and attorneys' fees.

jurisdiction over the case to

enforce the settlement deal.

The district court will retain

In a document dated last

June 5, Cruz told Wessling

that this case should have been settled a long time ago.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation is working on a draft to appro-PSS classes. other letter was a request for

The other PSS request for \$2.4 million is to pay for utility, insurance, and other costs from the past month.

Sablan said the SNILD will put the \$2.4-million appropriation on the floor another time, as the \$3-million appropriation is the priority.

When asked about the \$11.5 million due to PSS from the CNMI central government, Sablan said that they are aware of it and will be discussing the matter at the next House session. Some members said the \$3 million should be credited to the owed \$11 million.

"We recognize the challenges PSS faces this school year and the SNILD is committed to assist in any way we can," Sablan said. (Marc A. Venus)

#### 9th Circuit denies Fargo's motions

ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered the court's clerk to accept no further filings in Fargo's lawsuit without her prior approval. Manglona issued the order as she also denied Fargo's motion that seeks a declaratory

judgment in his lawsuit. Manglona had already issued a judgment in Fargo's lawsuit favorable to DHS. Fargo then appealed the judgment to the Ninth Circuit. Since giving notice of his

appeal to the Ninth Circuit last March 26, Fargo has filed 15 separate motions and requests in the District Court.

Last March, Manglona ruled that Fargo believes he has lawful permanent resident status despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

In denying Fargo's request for court action, Manglona said Fargo believes there is a "multiagency conspiracy to hide his green card from him." She disagreed and dismissed Fargo's lawsuit with finality.

Fargo sued DHS for allegedly hiding documents related to his humanitarian parole.

According to court records, the 65-year-old Fargo's original name is Nassir Nazarovich Kourbanov. He filed his lawsuit against DHS pro se or without a lawyer. His suit seeks to compel DHS to issue him immigration documents, including some documents from his alien file.

He has been fighting the U.S. government's efforts to have him removed from the U.S. He was placed on removal proceedings in September 2016. He is out on his own recognizance.

Fargo is convinced that he was granted humanitarian parole by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in San Diego, California, in 2002, and that acquiring proof of his parole will be key to successfully fighting his removal.



Call 234-5911

Showroom Hours: Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm

Saturday Hours 8 am to 5 pm

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# In focus: Compact funding, coral reef preservation

WASHINGTON, D.C.— U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary Doug Domenech will be traveling this week to Hawaii for meetings on Compact of

Free Association funding for the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The following week he will travel to Guam and also to the Republic of Palau to co-chair the annual meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force.

"I look forward to having productive meetings in each area and advancing issues of importance related to Compact funding for [FSM] and the [RMI]," said Domenech. "Likewise, I look forward to meetings [in] Guam and discussions in Palau related to coral reef management and preservation with all the stakeholders in the federal government, at the state and territory government level, and with the freely associated states."

In Hawaii, Domenech will be attending the Joint Economic Meetings with FSM and RMI. The Joint Economic Management Committees oversee and review the use of funding provided under the Compact of Free Association to the FSM and the RMI. At this year's meeting, the JEM committees will be determining approximately \$115 million of financial assistance for the FSM and RMI governments to be allocated primarily among the health, education, and infrastructure sectors for fiscal year 2020. More information on funding provided under the Compacts of Free Association is available at https://www.doi. gov/oia/compact-grant-assistance and https://www.doi.gov/ oia/press-releases.

Following the Joint Economic Meetings, Domenech will also attend the annual committee meetings of the Compact Trust Funds for the Peoples of the FSM and the RMI. More information on the Compact Trust Funds is available at https://www.doi.gov/ oia/compact-trust-funds.

In Guam. Domenech will meet with members of the Guam Chamber of Commerce and visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Guam National Wildlife Refuge at Ritidian Point. Domenech will also pay a courtesy visit on Rear Adm. John Menoni, the new commander of Joint Region Marianas. Menoni also holds the roles of senior military official for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau; commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas: and commander, Task Force West.

For the week beginning Sept. 9, Domenech will travel to Palau where he will co-chair the 42nd annual U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting.

The task force was established in 1998 by presidential executive order to lead U.S. efforts to preserve and protect coral reef ecosystems and includes leaders of 12 federal agencies, seven U.S. states, territories, and commonwealths, and the freely associated states.

Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr. will be the official host of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, which last met in Palau in 2005. Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet of the National Oceanic

tion will co-chair the meeting

and Atmospheric Administra- with Domenech. U.S. Geological Survey director Jim Reilly

More information on this meet-

will be the featured speaker. ing is available at https://www. coralreef.gov/. (PR)



#### 'DESTINU PERU

Saipan International School students perform on ukuleles at Peru's Children's Hospital, where they entertained the children and medical staff. The trip was part of the SIS "Destino Peru" program. The students went to Peru for 26 days. Their itinerary included five cities: Lima, Cuzco, Puno, Arequipa, and Nazca.



The Saipan International School students visit Lake Titicaca, the largest lake in all of South America and, at 12,500 feet above sea level, one of the highest in the world.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan International School delegation, 10 students between grades nine and 10, experience river rafting and zipline adventures in the valley of Lunahuana.



This is the eighth group from Saipan International School that have traveled to Peru under the Destino Peru program, which was founded by Mili Saiki in 2005, as a language immersion opportunity for upperclassmen taking Spanish. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School delegation visits Cot-CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

#### SEPTEMBER 3, 2004

#### Fuel crisis on Rota is finally solved

New fuel stock finally arrived on Rota yesterday, restoring the island's supply to normal level after nearly two weeks of stormy weather since the onslaught of Supertyphoon Chaba. The fuel shipment solved the looming fuel crisis on the island, as Mayor Benjamin Manglona sought resupply of fuel stock that remained low after the typhoon struck the Northern Marianas. "Rota is no longer in a fuel crisis," said Jenn Castro, public information officer at the Emergency Operations Center. She said all of Rota's fuel tanks were filled, after yesterday's arrival of Mobil's tanker. Castro said Rota received a supply of gasoline in the morning, while that of diesel fuel followed in the afternoon.

#### \$60K OK'd for new center for people with disabilities

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. has approved a \$60,000 funding for the construction of a center for people with disabilities on Capitol Hill. NMHC executive director Maria Lourdes Ada informed Thomas Camacho, executive director of the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, of the housing corporation's approval before a board meeting vesterday. Camacho expressed appreciation of the NMHC board's decision, saying the construction of a new center will greatly help people with disabilities. He said the money will be used to fund the conversion of an existing residential building on Capitol Hill into an Independent Living Transitional Model Home Center. The center will feature amenities ranging from an accessible parking stall to power assisted doors and windows, and environmental controls.

#### SEPTEMBER 3, 2005

#### Govt deficit at \$118.4M

The latest annual audit report showed that the CNMI government posted an outstanding budget deficit of \$118.4 million ending Sept. 30, 2003. The May 23, 2005 audit report by Deloitte & Touche obtained by Saipan Tribune showed that as of September 2003, the General Fund's total "unreserved fund balance deficit" totaled \$118.4 million—an increase of 13.3 percent from the prior year's deficit. The report said that during the period, the General Fund balance deficit increased by \$13.06 million or 13.9 percent to a total fund balance deficit of \$93.9 million, while the total "unreserved fund balance deficit" increased by \$13.9 million or 13.3 percent for a total unreserved fund balance deficit of \$118.4 million.

#### Anti-bud rot chemical arriving today

The fungicide that will be used to fight the fungus that is killing off Saipan's betel nut trees will arrive today from Guam. College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service agricultural consultant Isidoro Cabrera said that the chemical, Phosphite, was supposed to arrive yesterday but got delayed due to the bad weather. He said the agency will demonstrate the use of the chemical to affected farmers and growers next week. The tentative schedule of the workshop for the betel nut farmers would be on Sept. 13 to 14, said Cabrera. He said NMC-CREES would still need to procure some materials for the workshop.

#### SEPTEMBER 3, 2008

#### Fitial lifts CPA's state of emergency

Gov. Benigno Fitial lifted the state of emergency for the Commonwealth Ports Authority after swearing in two additional board members yesterday. Fitial said CPA may have its autonomy back now that there are enough board members to meet quorum requirements and run the ports authority. "This is the time to return control of the CPA over to them and allow them to do their job," the governor said in an executive order. The two new board members who took their oath of office yesterday are Manuel Villagomez from Tinian and Barry Toves from Rota. They join previously sworn-in directors Benigno M. Sablan, Fermin Sakisat, Thomas Villagomez, and Joe Lifoifoi. The seventh CPA appointee, Margarita Praeter, is still awaiting Senate confirmation.

#### 'Illegal taxis may endanger passengers'

Taxicab services on Saipan operating without government approval are skirting safety and insurance regulations and could pose a serious risk to passengers looking for a cheap ride, according to CNMI Department of Commerce officials. Commerce issued notices earlier this year to six taxi services on Saipan operating without the department's approval, prompting five of them later to close, acting Commerce Secretary Michael Ada said in an interview Wednesday. At least one of those companies, known as Tropical Island, has challenged Commerce's enforcement effort and remains open, continuing to pick up passengers. Meanwhile, taxi drivers say scores of other unregulated taxis are roaming the island without Commerce's knowledge and taking business away from cabs that follow local rules.

#### By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Homeland Security Investigations agents arrested on Saipan last Wednesday an alleged overstaying tourist who was found in possession of a CNMI's driver's license that he allegedly obtained through fraudulent papers.

Guangyi He, a Chinese national, was served with an arrest warrant after HSI filed before the federal court a complaint charging him with producing a fraudulently obtained identification document.

He was taken before the U.S. District Court for the NMI Thursday afternoon for his initial appearance hearing.

HSI task force officer Cristin Duenas stated in an submitted in court that Department of Public Safety police officers did a traffic stop on He, who presented a CNMI driver's license.

Duenas said that DPS had received a report that a man had been forced into a car. The caller described the car and its license plate.

Police officers responded and stopped the vehicle that had He as the driver and three other Chinese nationals as passengers.

Duenas said police officers asked for assistance from HSI and brought He and the three others to HSI office for identity verification. Using the DHS

# Alleged overstayer is arrested

ered that the four are illegally present in the CNMI.

Duenas did not mention whether the three were also

Duenas said He, a citizen of the People's Republic of China, had overstayed his CNMIonly conditional parole.

Duenas said He allegedly presented a CNMI driver's license to a police officer that had been obtained using a fraudulent immigration document.

DHS records showed that He entered the CNMI on Dec.

stay only until Dec. 28, 2017. Duenas said He overstayed his authorized parole date and is subject to be deported.

According to the DHS system, the receipt number listed on the immigration form I-797A that He presented to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles in obtaining driver's license was valid but registered to another individual and not assigned

system, HSI allegedly discov- 17, 2017, and was supposed to to He. Duenas said it was determined that the form I-797 was fraudulent.

> During an HSI interview, He allegedly admitted that he paid \$1,500 in cash to a person he met on WeChat to assist him in obtaining the driver's license.

> Last Aug. 23, HSI agents also arrested Xiaomei Wu, an alleged overstaving Chinese tourist who was found working as

an illegal taxi driver. Wu allegedly obtained a CNMI driver's license using a fraudulent immigration document.

Wu pleaded guilty last Wednesday to conspiracy to unlawfully produce an identification document and was slapped with a six-day prison term. He was given credit for time served and ordered to immediately report to immigration authorities for deportation.

# Military training in Guam, FDM, open ocean ASAN, Guam—Helicopter These types of trainings are tional missions throughout the

Sea Combat Squadron 25 will conduct training on Sept. 3-5, from 11am to 11:55pm, at the Dandan-Malojloj training site in Inarajan.

HSC-25 will also conduct training today, Sept. 3, from 8pm to 11:55pm, at Radio Barrigada.

HSC-25 will also conduct joint training with the 644th Combat Communications Squadron on Sept. 6-16, from 12:01am to 12pm at Radio Barrigada.

The 797th Ordnance Company will also be conducting training Squadron on Sept. 4-8, from 4am to 1pm at Radio Barrigada.

designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed, if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. The public should be advised that routine helicopter training, often accompanied with the use of blanks, can occur during these trainings.

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on Sept. 3-5, from 10:30am to 2:30pm at the island of Farallon de Medinilla.

This training supports aircrew combat readiness and is critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the region to ensure a stable, free, and open Indo-Pacific.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be within a 12-nautical-mile radius of the island.

The U.S. Navy will conduct open-ocean exercises on Sept. 4-5, from 6pm to 10pm within a 10-nautical-mile radius of the following coordinates: 13°26"N/145°08"E and 13°42"N/144°36"E.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. (PR)



#### **CULTURAL HERITAGE MONTH**

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs the proclamation Thursday at the Office of the Governor's conference room declaring September as Chamorro and Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month, to provide opportunities for the CNMI's indigenous population to showcase their unique cultures and traditions, to educate and inspire the younger generations on the importance of the indigenous ways of living.



#### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



#### **INVITATION FOR BIDS** CUC-IFB-19-028

#### REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFIER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi Clarifier Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of installation of a new circular darifier mechanism and replacement or repair of the effluent launder box; removal of the old circular clarifier mechanism and sections of the effluent launder box; replacement of the RFP weirs and scum baffle, installation of a new outer scum baffle; installation of new area lighting, wires, and conduit, and disconnect boxes; installation of a new process water spray system for foam control. The work shall include the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier; routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period; and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on August 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-028, Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) September 6, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to the business in the Company would be a the business in the Company would be a proposed to a surety company to the Northern Mariana belands as the business of the Company would be a proposed to a surety. to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on August 23, 2019 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE MANNY B. SABLAN Purchasing Administrator



#### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation





#### **INVITATION FOR BIDS** CUC-IFB-19-031

#### SAN VICENTE WATER TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Construction of San Vicente Water Tank Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consist of removal of existing 0.5 million gallon steel tank, yard piping, concrete vaults, and all other appurtenances; one (1) additional boring at the center of the existing tank; design and construction of the new 0.75 million gallon pre-stressed concrete water tank and foundation; installation of new water tank piping, valve vaults, control valves, and other appurtenances; construction of new perimeter security fencing and facility lighting; construction of new asphalt concrete access road; and installation of temporary storage tanks at the San Vicente Tank site. The project also includes installation of PSV station with flowmeter at the Dandan Tank site. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on August 21, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-031, San Vicente Water Tank Replacement Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Po. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 9:00 AM (ChST) September 6, 2019, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, As bit duarantee or interest (17%) perceive to the total bit price misst accompany the bits. The security deposit may be in cash, certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **August 22, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Kirztie Reyes, Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address kirztie.reyes@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR. Purchasing Administrator

10 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# **Opinion**



Published daily at 2/F JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

#### **EDITORIAL**

# Destruction in the Amazon rainforest hurts the whole planet

he Amazon is burning. That's hugely troubling for all of us.

The vast South American rainforest is our planet's lungs. Its estimated 390 billion trees produce 20% of the world's oxygen and suck immense amounts of carbon dioxide from the air. Besides being critical in the fight against climate change, the Amazon is home to indigenous people, incredible biodiversity and a vast array of known and still-unknown plant sources for drugs and other medications.

The horrific destruction in Brazil in particular—more than 41,000 fires have destroyed 4.6 million acres, 62% more than last year—is made worse by that government's complicity. President Jair Bolsonaro, a hard-right populist who took office in January, has prioritized the desire of industries like mining and logging to milk the protected Amazon. And he has encouraged deforestation, which is up sharply this year. To clear land, farmers and ranchers illegally set fires, knowing they can break Brazil's tough environmental laws, which are no longer enforced under Bolsonaro.

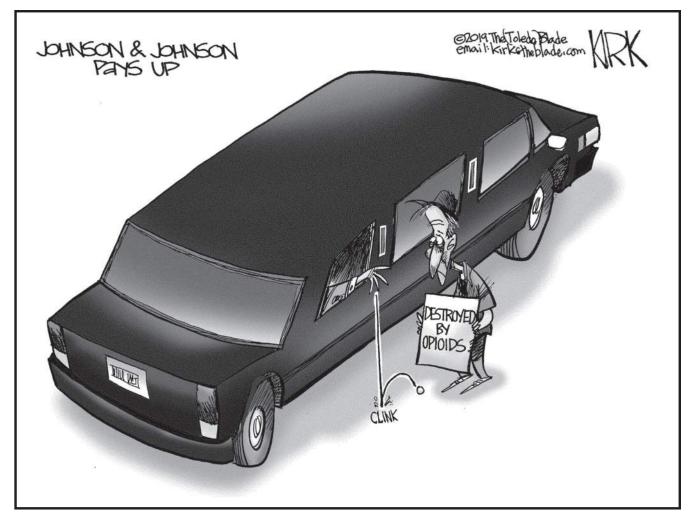
Global outrage and anger at home finally forced Bolsonaro to announce plans to send in 44,000 soldiers to help fight the fires. The world, too, has been rallying, with special firefighting planes and a \$20 million pledge from the G-7 countries announced Monday at the conclusion of the group's meetings in France.

But as the fight against the flames continues, the larger mission—persuading Brazil to stop destroying the rainforest—must be renewed. Between 2004 and 2012, deforestation was cut by 80% thanks to programs like the Amazon Fund, which was fueled by outside donations, primarily from the governments of Norway (\$1.2 billion) and Germany (\$68 million). Now both countries, upset that deforestation has risen sharply under Bolsonaro, have decided to cut back. This is unfortunate, though understandable. The Amazon Fund, or some similar successor, needs to shift its focus from rewarding Brazil for past successes to incentivizing more efforts to stop deforestation.

Pressure also could be applied by the European Union, via its new trade agreement with Brazil, by reducing purchases of beef and soybeans. The United States could act similarly. But our nation's leaders, engaged in environmental attacks of their own at home, have been silent on the rape of the Amazon.

The G-7 leaders announced another agreement with other countries in the Amazon basin on long-term forest protection and reforestation, and said it might be presented to the UN next month. That's a good step. But the two deals were

See DESTRUCTION on Next Page



# How a few words in my notebook saved me from loneliness

'd been in England for two years but alone in London for only a little over a month. The single room was on the third floor of an old house. It had dark blue walls, high white ceilings, a sink, a desk and a creaky bookcase with paint as chipped as my nails.

It was 1980. I was 23 and had deliberately but unintentionally constructed an elaborate edifice of loneliness. It was a ruin, a folly, but I sought refuge there nonetheless.

Two years earlier, I'd thrown my lot in with a young man and expected him to change my life. A year later, I'd received a fellowship to Cambridge University \_ and while my life changed, I didn't think it was for the better, and so I spent as much time in his London flat as I could.

But it became increasingly tense. I moved out while staying nearby, hoping we could get close again.

Moving out is rarely a wise maneuver, especially for the one who wants to stay.

Separating didn't give us more breathing room. It made me suffocatingly lonely.

I kept the door to my room on the third floor of the old house open because I hoped to hear the signature British double-ring of his incoming call. There was a pay telephone on the ground floor next to the shared kitchen; private phones were rare.

I wasn't meant to call him but, instead, was meant to wait. I'd once been fiercely independent, and that's what delighted him initially. He wanted me to be that girl again.

The best I could do was mimic autonomy. If I lapsed and phoned him, I'd pay for my emotional incontinence with more than money. I hoarded 20-pence pieces anyway. I'd shake those coins against each other when I was tempted to dial his number the way animal trainers use metal pieces in a tin can to put pets off bad behavior. Feeling needy? Bad Gina.

The worst part was that I no longer cared whether I heard from anybody else, cloistered in my make-believe fortress. London friends drifted away. American friends stopped sending letters because I so rarely replied. The way you'd wipe a chessboard clear of pieces, I'd unwittingly wiped my address book clear of friends. If I couldn't have this relationship, what good were any others? It was terrible to be isolated, but it was easier than making an effort to change.

More than anything else, I wanted not to be alone—yet all my actions guaranteed I'd be lonely. Like wearing a vest of explosives when you're coming in for a hug, insatiable need is a form of sabotage.

#### By GINA BARRECA

The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is a board of trustees distinguished professor of English literature at University of Connecticut and the author of 10 books. She can be reached at www. ginabarreca.com.



Every nerve ending, every molecule of my self-worth, was connected to the receiver that didn't ring and the words I didn't hear.

Except for the most superficial interactions \_ small talk with my co-workers, chatting with the man at the sandwich shop whose daughter was fascinated by all things American, an exchange of brief pleasantries with the landlady \_ I was on my own.

The few conversations I forced myself to have primarily served to inoculate me against any idea that there was something wrong with me. "See? There are people who know my name." "See? I am not invisible." I was free-lancing for the BBC, thank you very much. I could look after myself.

Or so it appeared.

If you looked at my resume, you'd have been impressed; if you read my diary, you'd have been appalled.

One night, desperate, I asked my notebook, "Are you afraid of being alone because of what will happen to you or because of what you might do to yourself?"

There was something wrong; nobody else had to tell me. Writing it down made me see it. I'd told myself, as if writing to another person.

I picked up the receiver on that downstairs phone and made a collect call to my father in New York. I asked to come home. After my mother died, he'd moved to a small two-room apartment, but he said yes nevertheless.

I broke up with the young man by letter, and he was nothing but relieved. I was, in turn, relieved to discover my friends back home were still my friends.

The next fall, I returned to Cambridge and finished my degree. I moved into a large friendly house and kept my door open so I could hear the cheerful noise of my housemates.

I paid even more attention to words, whether they were from the friends I made, sought out or cultivated, or written on a page.

I no longer waited for someone else to call to me.

#### **EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting

of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Students Last: How we are failing our public schools

tudents return to school this week, and our Public School System is in a desperate state of emergency. The Board of Education officially declared the emergency in June, but the crisis happened months before that, when the central government began drastically shrinking, and delaying, allotments to the school system. PSS' financial condition has only worsened since then.

There is literally nothing in the bank. Every two weeks, the central government transfers to PSS barely enough to make payroll, with salary cuts in effect, at \$700,000. There is no money to pay health and life insurance employer contributions for staff (PSS owes \$1.2 million); no money to compensate over a hundred vendors for services already rendered (PSS owes more than \$3 million); no money to pay utilities (PSS owes more than \$700,000).

There is no money for operations. The entire school system has just a two-week supply of fuel for buses. These buses are badly in need of repair and maintenance, and there is no money for that. The buses will be further strained running overtime this year because seven schools on Saipan are on double session. Kagman's elementary school and middle school are two such schools that must double up, because the elementary school is plagued with major electrical problems and there is no money to fix them. Kagman High School's electrical system also needs critical repair work. Again, no money.

All across the Commonwealth, principals and teachers are scrambling to stretch every resource, every penny of whatever they have left from educational tax credits to pay for school supplies, toilet paper, fuel for vans and equipment, cleaning services, security. But some schools have no operational funds at all—no ETC, nothing. One educator told me that in his 20 years at PSS, he has never seen a financial crisis like this before.

#### 'This is not justice'

Nearly a year after Super Typhoon Yutu, many of Saipan's schools remain in a shameful state of disrepair. Hopwood Middle School's students perhaps have it worst of all. They return to a temporary campus of tents that are already showing signs of deterioration. The floors are warped, door locks are broken, air-conditioning units need repairs. There is no money for repairs, and no replacement parts on island. Teachers say their classrooms are constantly dusty because the air-conditioning systems suck in dirt from the outside. Rats get into the tents and leave feces behind.

There are no trees or awnings outside, so students huddle up in slivers of shade against the tents and the restrooms to hide from the brutal sun. There are no covered walkways, so when it rains, students get soaked transitioning from one class to the next. There is no field for sports, no cafeteria, no library, no playground, no outdoor seating areas, no amenities whatsoever to support and enhance student learning. The school van is broken, has no windows, and no air-conditioning. There is no money to fix it.

One Hopwood educator described conditions at the school as inhumane. "This is not a place for children," she said. "This is not justice."

The students, teachers, administrators, staff, and families of Hopwood overwhelmingly want to return to their old campus. Hopwood lost 32 classrooms to Super Typhoon Yutu, but some of the damaged structures only need new roofs. Eighteen classrooms are still intact. The frustrating reality is that there is no clear plan to move the students back to their campus anytime

#### **DESTRUCTION**

From Page 10

unveiled after a session on climate change that was skipped by President Donald Trump, the only world leader at the summit not to attend. Afterward, Trump insisted he was an environmentalist, a claim defied by his own actions and those of his administration. Our nation and the world would benefit if he matched his words with deeds.

The Amazon is too valuable to lose or shrink. It gives us air we breathe and medicines that keep us healthy, and absorbs carbon that's overheating the Earth. We all have a stake in keeping it alive.

in the near future. No progress has been made on repairs at Hopwood in part because PSS has no money to spend to do the work to get reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and to cover the local cost share.

This lack of funding for upfront costs and for the local match is the case for our typhoon-damaged public schools in every single precinct on Saipan.

#### Pay PSS what is owed

When Gov. Ralph DLG Torres declared budgetary shortfalls in April and May, he imposed cuts that should have been proportionate across the government, as required by the Planning and Budgeting Act. For PSS, a 15% budget cut should have meant a drop from \$42 million to \$35 million. But 11 months into the fiscal year, PSS has received just \$23 million. The school system will be lucky to get a total of \$26 million by the time the fiscal year closes, on Sept. 30. That amounts to a 38% cut that is neither proportionate, nor legal, nor constitutional. In addition to failing to comply with the Planning and Budgeting Act, \$26 million falls far short of the constitutional mandate to deliver at least 25% of general fund resources to public schools.

It gets worse. If PSS closes out the fiscal year in the red (which it will if the central government does not pay the \$11.5 million it owes), the school system will likely be placed on high risk status by federal grantors as a result of failing to meet federal grant match requirements and other conditions. This will mean new, more onerous compliance requirements and a third-party contractor to oversee PSS finances, as has happened with the Guam Department of Education, which has been on high risk status since 2003. High risk status for PSS will most certainly mean even greater delays in disaster recovery for our schools.

What can the Legislature do? Nearly two months ago, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation appropriated \$250,000 to PSS from poker license fees. But the administration has yet to deliver those funds. Now the SNILD is contemplating appropriating at least \$3 million from casino license fees to PSS to help address some of the school system's most urgent obligations.

But PSS' current needs are much greater than \$3 million. SNILD chair Rep.John Paul Sablan and I have agreed to allocate all of Precinct 2's share of the casino license fees (around \$800,000) to our precinct's public schools to help them cover upfront costs and the local cost share required to rebuild their broken campuses. Our hope is that our SNILD colleagues will follow suit, and allocate at least a portion of their precinct's funds to their respective schools as well. PSS has already provided the local cost share estimates per school for the members to consider.

But the Torres administration must also do its part. Funds that have been appropriated to PSS must actually be remitted to PSS. Moreover, Saipan's sole casino licensee owes at least \$17 mil-

#### By TINA SABLAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Tina Sablan is a Precinct 2 representative in the CNMI House of Representatives in the 21st Legislature and is a member of the House Ways and Means Committee.



lion in Community Benefit Fund distributions and will owe another \$20 million this October: Gov. Torres must press on Imperial Pacific International to pay up and direct those funds to PSS. We now know that tax rebates and refunds, as well as appropriations from other revenue sources, have been diverted since the typhoon—ostensibly for disaster recovery. Because the state of disaster emergency continues to be extended, presumably such diversions are also continuing. But where are these funds going exactly? And why are they not going to our public schools, which remain in a state of disaster 10 months after Yutu?

What is also worrisome is that the PSS budget proposed by the governor for fiscal year 2020 falls far below what our public schools need just to maintain payroll, even with current PSS salary cuts in effect. If government-wide austerity measures continue past Oct. 1, they will further exacerbate our school system's crisis of underfunding. The PSS board is already contemplating four-day school weeks and additional salary cuts. Why the board has not yet filed a lawsuit to pursue what is constitutionally, legally, and morally owed to PSS is anyone's guess.

The sense of urgency is palpable at the ground level, at our schools that have reached rock bottom as funds have dried up. But that sense of urgency must also reach Capital Hill. At what point will our schools be forced to shut down? Will we pay attention then?

#### Stand with our students

It will take our public schools years to recover—not only from the impacts of Super Typhoon Yutu, but also from the impacts of austerity. Now is the time for everyone who cares about our students and our public schools to raise their voices and urge the governor, the Legislature, and the Board of Education to get our school system back on track. With 1,050 PSS employees, 10,000 PSS students and their families, and so many more community allies, those voices are powerful when they are united.

The bottom line is this: the illegal, unjust, and immoral short-changing of our public schools must stop. PSS needs money and support—and to get there, we need political will, a greater sense of urgency, and a realignment of priorities at the highest levels of our government to truly put our students first.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Tax refund money used for Yutu recovery. Seriously?

I just read Finance Secretary David Atalig's account of what happened to the monies in the Special Rebate Trust Account. It would be funny if it weren't, in my opinion, illegal. The law (4CMC§1714) is pretty specific. It states in part:

"At least 75 percent of all accounts paid to the government with respect to taxes imposed under this chapter shall not be placed into the general fund or commingled with other funds. ... The proceeds may be withdrawn from the trust accounts only for the purpose of: (a) Making rebates for any fiscal year as provided in this chapter; (b) Payment into the general fund, but only after a final determination...that the amount in question is not validly subject to rebate under this

chapter, or

(c) Payments into the general fund of the interest or earnings derived from such trust accounts.

Nowhere does the law say anything about exceptions because the governor declares an emergency. In fact, it specifically says that collected taxes"... shall not be placed in the general fund or commingled with other funds..." Apparently, no one in the CNMI government understands what "research" means. I mean, how hard is it to simply look up the rule or even find out if a rule exists? Was our rebate money used to pay the 2.5 times overtime pay?

And speaking of recovery, the administration keeps using Super Typhoon Yutu as a reason for literally everything, from "austerity" measures to questionable overtime to excuses for the "Garapan monstrosity" not being completed to no tax rebates. The mantra is, "We have no money because we are recovering from [Super] Typhoon Yutu." Yet, I see people still living in tents. I still see broken or destroyed homes and businesses. So my question is, where did all the money go? The damage done to the electrical grid should be covered in Commonwealth Utilities Corp. recovery money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. So again, where did all the money go? This concerned taxpayer would like to know.

#### **John Davis**

Fina Sisu, Saipan

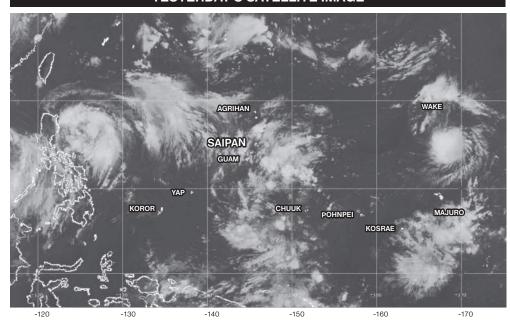
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**12** TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# The Weather

#### 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN **TODAY** WEDNESDAY **THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY** Mostly cloudy with Mostly cloudy. Mostly cloudy with Mostly cloudy. Mostly cloudy. scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Isolated showers and Isolated showers and Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds East winds 10 to 20 mph 5 to 15 mph becoming 880 78° 890 **78º** 880 **78º** 880 78°

#### YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



#### PICTURE TIME: 8:14 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2019 Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180

Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms have moved through the region for much of the night but have diminished slightly in the past hour since the sun came up. More showers are found just east of the area along a westward-moving surface trough. To the southeast, showers and thunderstorms extend northward from a broad disturbance just passing west of Chuuk. Buoys show seas of around 3 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESI	<b>▲</b> ♥°F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorm	82° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°

Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°
AROUND TH	E GLOBE	<b>▲</b> ▼°F
Auckland	Rain	61° / 55°
Beijing	Sunny	91° / 63°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	84° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	90° / 78°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 61°
Los Angeles	Sunny	90° / 72°
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	63° / 46°
Miami	Thunderstorm	89° / 79°
New York	Sunny	83° / 70°
Osaka	Thunderstorm	91° / 77°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	72° / 55°
Busan	Thunderstorm	81° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	88° / 64°
Salem	Sunny	94° / 71°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	69° / 57°
Seoul	Thunderstorm	77° / 72°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	82° / 73°
Washington, DC	Sunny	88° / 72°



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone

■\*11 on any IT&E cellular phone

■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIP	AN HARBOR TO	DAY FEET
4:33 AM	LOW TIDE	0.48
10:21 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.00
4:48 PM	LOW TIDE	0.53
10:42 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.03

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET			
Today	6:04 AM	6:28 PM			
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:27 PM			
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM			
Friday	6:04 AM	6:26 PM			
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:25 PM			

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:36 AM	9:42 PM	-
Wednesday	10:34 AM	10:28 PM	-
Thursday	11:31 AM	11:16 PM	-
Friday	12:27 PM	-	-
Saturday	-	12:04 AM	1:22 PM

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 15,	2019
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FL	.IGH	T SCI	IEDULE	AS	OF	AUG	US	T 15,	2019
	DE	PARTUI	RES				A	RRIVAL	S
SAIPAN-G	UAM (	GUM)			GUAN	л (GUM	)- <b>SA</b>	IPAN	
UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily		UA174	7:	30am	8:15am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4		UA104	4:	50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-B	USAN (	(PUS)			BUSA	N (PUS	)-SA	IPAN	
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4		7C3452			2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7		7C3452	9:	35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-S	EOUL (	ICN)			SEOU	IL (ICN)	-SAII	PAN	
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily		7C3402	9:	30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626		6:00am	1		TW307				2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		TW307			12:35am+1	
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7		OZ625	7:	40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4		OZ625	8:	15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6		7C3404	10:	10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3401		7:45pm	4, 7		7C3404	10:	40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6						
SAIPAN-S	HANGH	IAI (PVG	)		SHAN	IGHAI (I	PVG)	-SAIPAN	l
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:	30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-H	ANGZH	IOU (HGI	H)		HANG	SZHOU	(HGH	I)-SAIPA	N
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1		JD395	8:	05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4		JD395	8:	50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-G	UANGZ	HOU (CA	ln)				-	N)-SAIP	
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6		3U8645	8:	10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-B	EIJING	(PEK)			BEIJI	NG (PE	K)-S/	ΔIPΔN	
MU764		6:00am	3, 5, 7		MU763	-	-	12:30am+1	2.4.6
IVIO 7 04	1.50aiii	0.00aiii	3, 3, 7		WO 703	4.	оории	12.30a111+1	2, 4, 0
SAIPAN-N	IANILA	(MNL)			MANI	ILA (MN	IL)-S	AIPAN	
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN		OZ702/6	25 12:	15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701		11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via	ICN	OZ702/6			1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM		UA192/1			8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Gl	JM	UA184/1	74 10:	25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROI	R	UA184/1	74 11:	30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM
CAIDAN II	ONC I	one (III			HONG	LONG	/111/	c) caipa	. NI
SAIPAN-H								G)-SAIPA	
HX077		5:00am	1, 4		OZ722/6			1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721		11:40am	1 via ICN		OZ722/6			1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721		11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via	ICN	HX076			00:30am+1	
UO43		8:25am	1		UO42			1:20am+1	7
UO43		8:40am	3, 5, 7	,	UO42			4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA117/159	9.15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUN	1	UA116/1	14 10:4	45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

<b>SAIPAN</b> ** FLIGHT # 1301 1302 1303	TO ROTA  DEPARTURE 7:30AM 11:30AM 4:00PM	ARRIVAL 8:00AM 12:00PM 4:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	1203   1204   1205   1206   1207   1208	9:00AM 10:00AM 11:00AM 12:00PM 1:00PM 2:00PM	9:15AM 10:15AM 11:15AM 12:15PM 1:15PM 2:15PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily
FLIGHT # 3101 3102 3103	DEPARTURE 8:15AM 1:45PM 4:45PM	ARRIVAL 8:45AM 2:15PM 5:15PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	1209 1210 1211 1212 TINIAN 1	3:00PM 4:00PM 5:00PM 6:00PM	3:15PM 4:15PM 5:15PM 6:15PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily
ROTA TO	GUAM			FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT # 3401	DEPARTURE 12:15PM	ARRIVAL 12:45PM	FREQUENCY Daily	2102 2103 2104	7:30AM 8:30AM 9:30AM	7:45AM 8:45AM 9:45AM	Daily Daily Daily
<b>GUAM TO</b>	D ROTA			2105 2106	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT # 4301	DEPARTURE 1:00PM	ARRIVAL 1:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily	2106 2107 2108 2109	11:30AM 12:30PM 1:30PM 2:30PM	11:45AM 12:45PM 1:45PM 2:45PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily
SAIPAN	TO TINIAN			2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT # 1201 1202	DEPARTURE 7:00AM 8:00AM	ARRIVAL 7:15AM 8:15AM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily	2111 2112 2113	4:30PM 5:30PM 6:30PM	4:45PM 5:45PM 6:45PM	Daily Daily Daily

# **Business**

#### **BONITAN TASI DESIGN**

Keeping true to your island roots

By MARK RABAGO

mark rabago@saipantribune.com ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Setting up the online store Bonitan Tasi Design a few month ago was a way for Christi Warn to nurture her creativity and is a modern way for her to

sustain her island roots.

Born and raised in Guam, Warn's parents and grandparents-both maternal and paternal—hail from the CNMI and her online shop enables her to keep in touch with her roots here.

She said the online business actually began as a way for her to relax after a busy day at

school. Now a fourth-year college student working on her degree in business administration, Warn said that Bonitan Tasi Design got off the ground when she started designing custom-made products for herself and her family.

"Designing is my way of releasing stress from schoolwork. I'm self-taught in both photography and designing and, through the infusion of both, it is where my product designs come from," said Warn.

She then posted her designs on social media and that led to family and friends encouraging her to sell her products online.

"At first, I thought many people would not like them because they are different. But my family kept encouraging me that I should because of that fact," she said.

Warn, who lives in Washington state, first dabbled in shirts, sandals, mugs, wine glass, and keychains with a Guam theme. However, a little prodding from her mother led her to adopt CNMI-themed products as well.

"My whole goal is to provide products to islanders here in the U.S. who are proud of their heritage and enjoy show-



ing it," she said.

So far, Bonitan Tasi Design's bestsellers are its slides that have floral designs with Saipan, Tinian, Luta, and Guam emblazoned on them.

The online shop has now branched out to making sneakers, bags, and car seat covers with the now familiar island theme the CNMI and Guam are known for.

Why did she name her online business Bonitan Tasi? Warn said she wanted something that reflects where she come from and as a tribute to her late brother.

"The name 'bonitan tasi' means beautiful ocean. It's something that reflects home because we have such beautiful beaches and I also named it in memory of Glenn."



Bonitan Tasi Design has now branches out to selling sneakers.

Warn's online store can be tions or on Facebook. Means found on the internet at https://

of payment are through either bonitantasipd.com/collec- credit card or PayPal.

Bonitan Tasi Design's

handbag designs.



Bonitan Tasi Design's bestselling slides

**CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS** 

#### In escalating trade war, US consumers may see higher prices

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States and China on Sunday put in place their latest tariff increases on each other's goods, potentially raising prices Americans pay for some clothes, shoes, sporting goods and other consumer items before the holiday shopping season.

President Donald Trump said U.S.-China trade talks were still on for September. "We'll see what happens," he told reporters as he returned to the White House from the Camp David presidential retreat. "But we can't allow China to rip us off anymore as

The 15% U.S. taxes apply

to about \$112 billion of Chinese imports. All told, more than two-thirds of the conhigher taxes. The administration had largely avoided hitting consumer items in its earlier rounds of tariff increases.

But with prices of many retail goods now likely to rise, the Trump administration's move threatens the U.S. economy's main driver: consumer spending. As businesses pull back on investment spending and exports slow in the face of weak global growth, American shoppers have been a key bright spot for the economy.

"We have got a great economy," said Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa. "But I do think that the sumer goods the United States uncertainty caused by volatile imports from China now face tariff situation and this developing trade war could jeop ardize that strength, and that growth, and that is, I think, that's a legitimate concern," he told ABC's "This Week."

As a result of Trump's higher tariffs, many U.S. companies have warned that they will be forced to pass on to their customers the higher prices they will pay on Chinese imports. Some businesses, though, may decide in the end to absorb the higher costs rather than raise prices for their customers.

# Mexico's president vows to tackle violence, corruption

MEXICO CITY (AP)— Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador acknowledged a grim tally of members, generals, businessviolent crimes and a weak men and journalists at the Naeconomy as he delivered the tional Palace. first state of the union address of his six-year term Sunday.

Homicides in Mexico are at a record high and the economy is struggling nine months into his administration. Yet López Obrador, who campaigned on promises to end corruption, continues to enjoy skyhigh approval ratings of more than 70% after winning the presidency in a landslide July 2018 election victory that also handed his political party a near-majority in Congress.

Stamping out corruption

and impunity remains a top priority, López Obrador said in his address to Cabinet

Tackling corruption is a tall task. Mexico scored 28 out of 100 points in Transparency International's 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index, where a lower score indicates higher levels of corruption. That puts Mexico on par with Russia and behind countries such as Bolivia and Honduras in clean business dealings.

damaged "Nothing has Mexico more than the dishonesty of its rulers—and this is the main cause of the economic and social inequality, and of the insecurity and violence, that we suffer," the president said somberly.

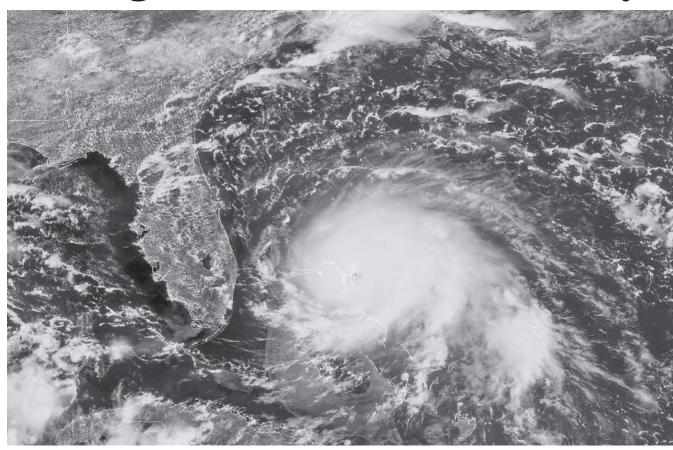
López Obrador has dubbed his tenure the "Fourth Transformation," saying it represents a change akin to Mexico's 1810 independence uprising, 1857 Liberal movement and 1910 revolution. He took office in December on promises to help the country regain its moral compass.

The transition has been bumpy, with three top Cabinet members having already resigned. Austerity measures have gutted key institutions, such as the public health system, and contributed to a growing hesitance among Mexicans to invest and spend.

14 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# **Nation**

# Cutting it close: Florida's fate may be a matter of miles



This GOES-16 satellite image taken Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019, at 17:00 UTC and provided by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), shows Hurricane Dorian, right, churning over the Atlantic Ocean.

By SETH BORENSTEIN

AP SCIENCE WRITER

For Florida, just a handful of miles may make a huge difference in Hurricane Dorian's slow dance with the coast.

The National Hurricane Center forecasts Dorian to be 40 to 50 miles off the Florida coast on Tuesday and Wednesday, with hurricane-force wind speeds extending about 35 miles to the west.

When they make a forecast, meteorologists have a general idea where the monstrous storm is going but they then have to choose a point on the map instead of a general place, making it seem more specific than it really is.

And much of the Florida coast is inside that cone.

"This thing is perilously close to the state. I think we should all hope and pray for the best, but we have to prepare that this could have major impacts on the state of Florida," said Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. "If you look at the National Hurricane Center's current track, I think it ends up within 30 miles of the coast of Florida. Well guess what? You do just a touch of a bump one

way or another, and you have a dramatic difference all of a sudden."

Center Director Ken Graham is telling residents don't bet on safety just because his office specific forecast track has the storm just a bit offshore.

"The cone is so important," Graham said.

And making matters more touch-and-go is that with every new forecast, "we keep nudging (Dorian's track) a little bit to the left," which is closer to the Florida coast, he said.

Dorian is a powerful but small hurricane with hurrionly extending 29 miles to the west, but they are expecting to grow a bit. That makes forecasting the storm's path along the coast — either just off the coast, skirting it or moving inland with a direct hit — delicate and difficult. Just a few miles west or east makes the difference between devastation and bad but not horrible damage, meteorologists said.

cane-force winds Sunday

"Where it doesn't directly hit, it's not going to be a huge problem," Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach said.

With a big, sloppy hurricane

# Hurricane Dorian Hurricane Dorian has strengthened to Category 5 storm, the strongest possible level, with gusts of up to 200 mph. Atlantic Ocean Area indicates possible path of storm, not size. Area indicates possible path of storm, not size.

Source: NOAA, Sun Sentine

— say 50% larger in size — all of Florida would be under a serious threat, but that's not the case, said University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy.

This is what makes this a nightmare for forecasters, McNoldy said.

It's a combination of the small size, close-in track, like Matthew in 2016, and weak steering currents. That means just a smidge of a movement days ahead of time, while Dorian is in the Bahamas, can reverberate and mean a direct hit or not, said private meteorologist Ryan Maue.

That can happen just because of the timing of when Dorian's eyewall collapses and is replaced, which happens normally in storms.

Adding to that problem is Dorian's slow, almost snail-like pace. What initially looked like a Labor Day storm for the U.S. is now approaching Tuesday and Wednesday.

"People are getting impatient with this," McNoldy said. Because the threat seems to keep sticking around, it could be a problem getting the right message across, he said.

Klotzbach said he thinks the U.S. East Coast will get "scraped," but Dorian will stay just offshore, something Maue agrees with.

#### ACROSS THE NATION

# Man who showed interest in mass shootings released on bond

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP)— A Connecticut man authorities say showed an interest in mass shootings and lived in a home where there were several guns and ammunition present has been released on \$250,000 bond. The Hour reports that 22-year-old Brandon Wagshol was released Friday with conditions, including that he undergo a mental health evaluation, wear a GPS monitoring device and check in with the probation office daily. The Norwalk man was charged last month with four counts of illegal possession of large-capacity magazines. Police started investigating when they received a tip that Wagshol was trying to buy large-capacity rifle magazines from out of the state.

#### Officer fatally shoots armed man near St. Louis-area mall RICHMOND HEIGHTS.

Mo. (AP)—Authorities are investigating after a suburban St. Louis police officer fatally shot an armed man near a large shopping mall. The shooting happened Saturday afternoon near the St. Louis Galleria. Police on

Sunday identified the man

who was killed as 23-year-old

Terry Tillman of St. Louis. St. Louis County police say a Richmond Heights officer saw Tillman inside the mall carrying a gun. Concealed carry is legal in Missouri, but weapons are prohibited inside the mall. Police say the officer told the man of the mall's policy and the man ran. The officer chased him to a parking garage, where the man was shot. Police say a weapon was recovered but have released few other details. Police did not release the name of the 50-year-old officer. He's a 23year veteran.

# Driver killed in crash after leading trooper on chase

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP)—The Virginia State Police says a man was killed in a car crash while fleeing from a trooper who tried to stop his vehicle. A police news release says 32-year-old Eric Ball, of Greene, wasn't wearing a seatbelt when he lost control of his car, which veered off the road and struck a tree on Friday night. Police say Ball had been driving without headlights and speeding when a trooper tried to pull him over in Fluvanna County. Ball led the trooper on a chase into Albemarle County, where the crash occurred. Ball was pronounced dead at the scene. Nobody else was in his vehicle.

# Some of the most recent deadly US mass shootings

A list of some of the deadliest mass shootings in the United States in the last two years:

- Aug. 31, 2019: Seven people were killed in West Texas in shootings in the area of Midland and Odessa. The gunman also died after being shot by police.
- Aug. 4, 2019: A gunman wearing body armor shot and killed nine people at a popular nightlife area in Dayton, Ohio. Police were patrolling the area and killed the suspect.

Full Coverage: Shootings

- Aug. 3, 2019: A gunman opened fire at a shopping center in El Paso, Texas, killing 22 people and injuring more than two dozen. A suspect was taken into custody.
- May 31, 2019: Longtime city worker DeWayne Craddock opened fire in a building that houses Virginia

Beach government offices. He killed 12 people and wounded several others before he was gunned down by police.

- Feb. 15, 2019: Gary Martin killed five co-workers at a manufacturing plant in Aurora, Illinois, during a disciplinary meeting where he was fired. He wounded one other employee and five of the first police officers to arrive at the suburban Chicago plant before he was killed during a shootout with police.
- Nov. 7, 2018: Ian David Long killed 12 people at a country music bar in Thousand Oaks, California, before taking his own life. Long was a Marine combat veteran of the war in Afghanistan.
- Oct. 27, 2018: Robert Bowers is accused of opening fire at Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Penn-

sylvania, during Shabbat morning services, killing 11 and injuring others. It's the deadliest attack on Jews in the U.S. in history.

- June 28, 2018: Jarrod Ramos shot through the windows of the Capital Gazette offices in Annapolis, Maryland, before turning the weapon on employees there, killing five at The Capital newspaper. Authorities say Ramos had sent threatening letters to the newspaper prior to the attack.
- May 18, 2018: Dimitrios Pagourtzis began shooting during an art class at Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, Texas. The 17-year-old killed eight students and two teachers and 13 others were wounded. Explosive were found at the school and off campus.
- Feb. 14, 2018: Nikolas Cruz shot and killed 17 stu-

dents and staff members at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. It surpassed Columbine High School as the deadliest shooting at a high school in U.S. history.

- Nov. 5, 2017: Devin Patrick Kelley, who had been discharged from the Air Force after a conviction for domestic violence, used an AR-style firearm to shoot up a congregation at a small church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, killing more than two dozen.
- Oct. 1, 2017: Stephen Paddock opened fire on an outdoor music festival on the Las Vegas Strip from the 32nd floor of a hotel-casino, killing 58 people and wounding more than 500. SWAT teams with explosives then stormed his room and found he had killed himself. (AP)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 **15** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Asia

# Hong Kong students plan to strike as commutes disrupted

HONG KONG (AP)—On the first day of school Monday, secondary students in Hong Kong supplemented their formal white uniforms with gas masks, goggles and hard hats as they planned to strike in a show of continued commitment to a fiery anti-government protest movement.

The semiautonomous Chinese territory has been rocked by nearly three months of pro-democracy protests calling for electoral reforms and an independent inquiry into police conduct.

The youth-dominated demonstrations will be tested as classes resume and many protesters are expected to go back to school following the summer break. A strike was scheduled for Monday afternoon for student protesters to skip classes and congregate

at a public square in central Hong Kong.

At St. Francis' Canossian College, a girls' school, uniformed students kneeled in a line and held up hand-painted signs that read: "The five major demands: Not one is dispensable."

The protesters' demands include dropping charges against demonstrators who have been arrested and formally withdrawing an extradition bill that would allow Hong Kong residents to be sent to mainland China to stand trial.

Some demonstrators disrupted the morning commute by blocking train doors, attempting to evade riot police who were hot on their heels by moving quickly between multiple public transit stations.

Officers at Lok Fu station hit

rested one. Another three were arrested at Lai King station.

On Sunday, the MTR Corp. suspended train service to the

protesters with batons and ar- airport after several hundred but police in riot helmets kept protesters gathered there following calls online to disrupt transportation. They blocked buses arriving at the airport

them out of the terminal.

The protesters accuse Beijing and the government of Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam of eroding the autonomy and civil liberties promised when the former British colony was returned to China in 1997.



Students wearing gas masks and helmets hold a banner which reads "Five major demands are indispensable.", at St. Francis' Canossian College in Hong Kong, on Monday, Sept. 2, 2019

War-weary Afghans have little voice in their country's fate

#### **ASIAN BRIEFS**

#### **Surveys show China manufacturing** demand weak amid trade war

**BEIJING** (AP)—Two surveys of Chinese manufacturing show demand is weak amid a mounting tariff war with Washington over trade and technology. The business magazine Caixin said Monday its monthly purchasing managers' index rose to 50.4 from July's 49.9 on a 100-point scale on which numbers above 50 show activity increasing. The magazine said that indicated "renewed improvement" but said its gauge of new orders fell to its lowest level this year. A separate survey released Saturday by an industry group, the China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing, showed activity declining to 49.5 from July's 49.7. It said market demand was "relatively weak." Chinese exporters are struggling in the face of U.S. tariff hikes. Beijing has propped up economic growth by boosting government spending on construction.

#### Official: US envoy meets Afghan leader over US-Taliban talks

Afghanistan KABUL, (AP)—An Afghan official says U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad has met with President Ashraf Ghani in the capital, Kabul, to brief him on the latest round of talks with the Taliban on ending America's longest war. Ghani spokesman Sediq Sediqqi confirms that the meeting took place Sunday

night at the presidential palace shortly after Khalilzad arrived from Qatar, where the ninth round of talks ended without a final deal. Sediqqi on Monday said the palace soon will release details of the meeting. Khalilzad over the weekend said the U.S. and the militant group are "at the threshold of an agreement" even as the Taliban attacked the capitals of Kunduz and Baghlan provinces in the north. Intra-Afghan talks that include the Afghan government are meant to follow a U.S.-Tali-

#### Aussie trainee pilot makes landing after teacher falls ill

# (AP)—For almost a year, Af-

KABUL,

ghanistan's more than 30 million people have been in the awkward position of waiting as a United States envoy and the Taliban negotiate their country's fate behind closed doors.

Afghanistan

An agreement on ending America's longest war, which the U.S. once hoped to reach by Sunday, could set a timeline for U.S. troops' withdrawal but also nudge aside this month's presidential election and open the way for a Taliban return to power. The militants continue their attacks, again invading a major city, Kunduz, on Saturday and the city of Puli Khumri on Sunday.

Without a say in their own future, Afghans' frustration is clear. "We don't know what is going on but we are just so tired," said Sonia, a teacher in the capital, Kabul, who like many people goes by one name.

Reflecting the helplessness, a new television ad shows residents of all 34 provinces holding up pieces of paper that simply say "Peace." An art group in Kabul has begun painting concrete blast walls with tens of thousands of tulips, the national flower, as symbols of the civilians killed

in nearly 18 years of fighting.

And a peace movement praised by Afghans for a daring march across the country warns that the Taliban, who control or hold sway over roughly half of Afghanistan nearly two decades after a U.S.-led invasion toppled them from power, are just as harsh as the days when women were forced out of sight and entertainment was banned under a strict form of Islamic law.

A 23-year-old member of the peace movement, Saved Rahim Omid, shyly lowered his trousers and showed The Associated Press a still-painful wound on his leg where he said Taliban members at hometown in southern Helmand province had whipped him with cables. Stop your activism, they told him last month. Who's paying you?

His family secured his release by swearing he would never speak out again. Then he promptly fled to Kabul. Several peace marchers have been beaten up, he and fellow members said.

"I don't know how to trust them," Omid said of the Taliban, even as its leaders meet with the U.S. envoy, Afghanborn Zalmay Khalilzad, in a luxury setting in Qatar and signal regret for their past ways.

Repentance about the present seems to be another matter. A former Taliban military leader in a province neighboring Kabul, Syed Akbar Agha, defended the beatings, saying the peace movement gives the impression the insurgent group doesn't want the war to end.

Sitting in a leafy yard in Kabul, he insisted the Taliban's tens of thousands of members will respect whatever is agreed to in Oatar, where the group has a political office. He pointed to last year's extraordinary cease-fire during the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr during which fighters and Afghans chatted and posed for photos. The Taliban later rejected a government call to try it again.

Better times are on the way for the Afghan people, Agha said, as some 20,000 U.S. and other foreign troops prepare to withdraw in return for Taliban assurances that Afghanistan won't be a haven for terror groups plotting overseas attacks.

"Good memories of the Taliban will help them trust the Taliban and support them," he said, but bristled when asked how the insurgent group could justify punishments such as stoning and

cutting off hands. "Are you a Muslim?" he demanded.

Such talk puts Afghans on the defensive. "If the Taliban dream of ruling the country as they once did, we don't need them," said Kabul resident Mahbob Shah.

The Taliban have refused to negotiate with the Afghan government and call it a U.S. puppet, raising serious questions about intra-Afghan talks meant to follow a U.S.-Taliban deal and work out the country's political future. Both sides should negotiate as "ordinary people" and form a new government, Agha said.

The belief that an interim government will follow a U.S.-Taliban agreement has led most candidates in the Sept. 28 presidential election, including Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, to say they prioritize peace over a vote. The Taliban have warned Afghans to boycott the election, calling polling stations targets.

The developments anger President Ashraf Ghani, who seeks a second term and a strong mandate so the government can better negotiate with the Taliban, who already portray a U.S. troop withdrawal as their victory.

# ban agreement.

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A trainee pilot in Australia who was having his first lesson behind the controls of an aircraft had to make an emergency landing after his instructor fell unconscious. Max Sylvester called air traffic control in Western Australia state on Saturday after his instructor collapsed during the flight. Seven Network TV reported that he was flying in a singlepropeller two-seat Cessna 152. "He's leaning over my shoulder, I'm trying to keep him up but he keeps falling down," Sylvester told the controller from the plane in audio provided to the Australian Broadcasting Corp. "Do you know how to operate the airplane?" the controller asked. "This is my first lesson," Sylvester replied. The controller then guided Sylvester through the landing.

**16** TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# World

# Saudi-led airstrikes kill at least 100 in rebel-run prison

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—The Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen staged multiple airstrikes on a detention center operated by the Houthi rebels in the southwestern province of Dhamar, killing at least 100 people and wounding dozens more Sunday, officials and the rebels' health ministry said.

Franz Rauchenstein, the head of the Red Cross delegation in Yemen, suggested that the death toll could be higher after visiting the site of the attack, saying relatively few detainees survived. A Red Cross statement said the detention center held around 170 detainees. It said 40 of those were being treated for injuries and the rest were presumed dead.

"Witnessing this massive damage, seeing the bodies lying among the rubble, was a real shock. Anger and sadness were natural reactions," Rauchenstein said.

The attack was the deadliest so far this year by the coalition, according to the Yemen Data Project, a database tracking the war. The coalition has faced international criticism for airstrikes that have hit schools, hospitals and wedding parties, killing thousands of Yemeni civilians.

Saudi Arabia intervened on behalf of the internationally recognized Yemini government



in March 2015, after the Iranbacked Houthis took the capital. The conflict has claimed tens of thousands of lives, thrust millions to the brink of famine and spawned the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The attack comes as the Saudi-led coalition's partners—chiefly the United Arab Emirates and an array of Yemeni militias—are increasingly at odds over the war's aims. The past weeks have seen heavy fighting in Yemen's south between Saudi-backed and Emirati-backed forces.

Yemeni officials said Sunday's strikes targeted a college in the city of Dhamar, which the Houthi rebels were using as a detention center. The co-

alition denied it had struck a detention center, saying it had targeted a military site used by the rebels to restore drones

"We were sleeping and around midnight, there were maybe three, or four, or six

JERUSALEM (AP)—He-

zbollah militants on Sunday

fired a barrage of anti-tank

missiles into Israel, prompt-

ing a reprisal of heavy Israeli

artillery fire in a rare burst of

fighting between the bitter

Although the shooting

quickly subsided without

casualties on either side, the

situation remained volatile.

The bitter enemies, which

fought a monthlong war in

2006, have indicated they do

not want to go to war but ap-

peared on a collision course

in recent days after a pair of

Israeli strikes against Hez-

bollah. The militant group

Lebanese Prime Minister

Saad Hariri held telephone

calls with U.S. Secretary

of State Mike Pompeo as

well as an adviser to French

President Emmanuel Macron

urging the international com-

munity to calm the situation.

The U.N. peacekeeping mis-

sion in southern Lebanon,

known as UNIFIL, said it

was in contact with all sides

U.N. spokesman Andrea

Tenenti said later that "calm

has returned in the area" and

and urged restraint.

vowed it would retaliate.

enemies.

the jail, I really don't know the strike numbers," wounded detainee Nazem Saleh said while on a stretcher in a local hospital. He said the Red Cross had visited the center two times before the airstrike.

A line of over a dozen white body bags were laid

Bodies covered in plastic lie on the ground amid the rubble of a Houthi detention center destroyed by Saudi-led airstrikes, that killed at least 100 people and wounding several dozen according to officials and the rebels' health ministry, in Dhamar province, southwestern Yemen, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019.

out in the rubble beside flattened buildings and crushed cars, while rescue workers dug through the debris.

"We have seen now under the ruble that there are still many, many dead bodies that its very, very difficult to extract," said Rauchenstein.

The U.N. human rights office for Yemen said 52 detainees were among the dead, and at least 68 detainees were still missing.

The Red Cross, which inspects detention centers as part of its global mission, said it had visited detainees at the site in the past.

Former detainees said the Houthis had previously used the site to store and repair weapons.

Youssef al-Hadhri, spokesman for the Houthi-run Health Ministry, said at least seven airstrikes hit three buildings in the complex overnight.

#### An uneasy peace for ex-Colombia rebels after call to arms

Colombia ICONONZO, (AP)—Off a dirt road deep in the Colombian mountains, a new town is coming to life where former rebel combatants grow corn, make Hawaiian-style shirts and even sell their own craft beer.

Yet signs of their struggle to reintegrate into civilian life abound.

Perhaps most glaringly, utility poles installed by the government many months ago still aren't connected to the power grid, leaving them entirely reliant on a gas generator. The lifeless wires hang above their tin roof homes, a stark reminder that they remain disconnected from the world they are trying to join.

"We're like nomads here. We don't have anything," said Ruben Dario Jaramillo, a former guerrilla for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia who is running an artisanal beer company, which he and a handful of comrades call "The Red."

It's former fighters like these that a small cadre of commanders with Colombia's once largest rebel army are urging to rearm, accusing the

government of falling short in implementing the 2016 peace accord ending Latin America's longest-running conflict.

For now, several former rebels living at the Antonio Nariño demobilization camp about four hours from Colombia's capital say they are committed to the peace deal. But at least one said he couldn't promise that he would never return to the battlefield if things start to turn sour.

"I can't say yes or no," said Gonzalo Beltran, 43, who leads a group of ex-combatants making floral-print shirts in bright colors sold for \$10 each. "If there is an attack against us, we'd have to pursue an alternative. We can't stay with our arms crossed."

Colombia's fragile peace process took a precarious turn Thursday when Luciano Marin, once a chief proponent of the accord, announced that he and a band of rebel FARC hardliners were rearming for a "new phase" of the conflict.

In a 32-minute video posted on YouTube, Marin denounced Colombia's leaders for failing to fully implement the accord and accused President Ivan Duque of standing by as hundreds of former combatants and leftist activists have been murdered.

"The state hasn't fulfilled its most important obligation, which is to guarantee the life of its citizens," Marin said, dressed in an olive-green uniform and surrounded by about 20 heavily armed, stone-faced insurgents.

The rebels followed up their declaration with a letter Saturday calling on ex-guerrillas now living in 24 demobilization camps around the country to "continue the fight from wherever they are and in whatever way their situation allows."

"There is no other alternative," the insurgents wrote.

At the camp, named after a Colombian independence ideologue, former guerrillas said they respected the position taken by the ex-leaders, even while vowing to continue the peace process themselves.

"It's an individual choice," said Viviana Nariño, 40, who joined the FARC guerrillas at age 14 and is now head of a women's association. "Everyone will have to respond for themselves."

and missiles. strikes. They were targeting

Israel, Hezbollah engage in brief, intense fighting the U.N. peacekeeping force is maintaining its presence on the ground together with the

> Lebanese army. By nightfall, the fighting appeared to have halted. But Israeli officials said troops remained on high alert.

> "We are consulting about the next steps," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. "I have ordered that we be prepared for any scenario. We will decide on the next steps pending developments."

> Hezbollah's deputy leader, Naim Kassem, said Sunday night that the group was committed to retaliating whenever it comes under attack. "Hezbollah wants to preserve deterrence and the rules of engagement in order to prevent something worse from happening," he said.

> Israel considers Iran to be its greatest enemy, and Iran-backed Hezbollah to be its most immediate military threat. Hezbollah has a battle-tested army that has been fighting alongside the forces of Syrian President Bashar Assad in Syria's civil war, and it is believed to possess an arsenal of some 130,000

missiles and rockets.

Throughout the ian war, Israel has acknowledged carrying out scores of airstrikes in Syria aimed at preventing alleged Iranian arms transfers to Hezbollah. But in recent weeks, Israel is believed to have widened its campaign and struck Iranian or Hezbollah targets in Iraq and Lebanon as well.

Last weekend, Israeli warplanes thwarted what Israel said was an attempt by Iran to launch a squad of attack drones based in Syria. Two Hezbollah operatives were killed in the strike, and Hezbollah has sworn it will not let the killings go without a reply.

Hezbollah also promised to respond to what it says was an Israeli drone strike in Beirut last week. Israeli media have said the strike destroyed a "planetary mixer," a sophisticated piece of equipment needed to manufacture guided missiles.

"The Islamic Resistance carried out the secretary general's promise to retaliate for the two aggressions," Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV presenter said Sunday, referring to the recent Israeli strikes.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 17

# Focus

ODESSA, Texas (AP)—Police say they are not sure why a man with a misdemeanor on his record and no warrant for his arrest erupted in a spate of violence after a routine traffic stop in West Texas, killing seven including a man slain outside his parents' home and a teenager fatally shot as she left a car dealership with her family.

Authorities said that Seth Aaron Ator, 36, also injured 22 people Saturday afternoon before officers killed him outside a busy movie theater in Odessa

Online court records show Ator was arrested in 2001 for a misdemeanor offense that would not have prevented him from legally purchasing firearms in Texas, although authorities have not said where Ator got the "AR style" weapon he used.

Authorities said those killed were between the ages of 15 and 57 years old but did not immediately provide a list of names. But family and employers said that among the dead were Edwin Peregrino, 25, who ran out of his parents' home to see what the commo-

tion was; mail carrier Mary Granados, 29, slain in her U.S. Postal Service truck; and 15-year-old high school student Leilah Hernandez, who was walking out of an auto dealership.

Hundreds of people gathered at a local university in the Permian Basin region known for its oil industry Sunday evening for a prayer vigil to console each other and grieve the loss of life.

"We're out here in the middle of nowhere," Midland Mayor Jerry Morales told the crowd. "All we've talked about is oil forever. And then this happens."

Odessa Police Chief Michael Gerke said there were still no answers pointing to a motive for the chaotic attacks, which began when Texas state troopers tried pulling over a gold car on Interstate 20 for failing to signal a left turn.

Before the vehicle came to a complete stop, the driver "pointed a rifle toward the rear window of his car and fired several shots" toward the patrol car stopping him, according to Texas Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Katherine Cesinger. The gunshots struck a trooper, Cesinger said, after which the gunman fled and continued shooting. He fired at random as he drove in the area of Odessa and Midland, two cities more than 300 miles (482 kilometers) west of Dallas.

Police used a marked SUV to ram the mail truck outside the Cinergy Movie Theater in Odessa, disabling the vehicle. The gunman then fired at police, wounding two officers before he was killed.

"Local law enforcement and state troopers pursued him and stopped him from possibly going into a crowded movie theater and having another event of mass violence," FBI special agent Christopher Combs said.

Police said Ator's arrest in 2001 was in the county where Waco is located, hundreds of miles east of Odessa. Online court records show he was charged then with misdemeanor criminal trespass and evading arrest. He entered guilty pleas in a deferred prosecution agreement where the charge was waived after he served 24 months of probation, according to records.

The shooting came at the end of an already violent month in Texas, where on Aug. 3 a gunman in the border city of El Paso killed 22 people at a Walmart. Sitting beside authorities in Odessa, Abbott ticked off a list of mass shootings that have now killed nearly 70 since 2016 in his state alone.

"I have been to too many of these events," Abbott said. "Too many Texans are in mourning. Too many Texans have lost their lives. The status quo in Texas is unacceptable, and action is needed."

But Abbott, a Republican, remains noncommittal about imposing any new gun laws in Texas at a time when Democrats and gun-control groups are demanding restrictions. And even as Abbott spoke, a number of looser gun laws that he signed this year took effect on the first day of September, including one that would arm more teachers in Texas schools.

Saturday's shooting brings the number of mass killings in the U.S. so far this year to 25, matching the number in all of 2018, according to The AP/USATODAY/Northeastern University mass murder database. The number of people killed this year has already reached 142, surpassing the 140 people who were killed of all last year. The database tracks homicides where four or more people are killed, not including the offender.

Daniel Munoz, 28, of Odessa, was headed to a bar to meet a friend when he noticed the driver of an approaching car was holding what appeared to be a rifle.

"This is my street instincts: When a car is approaching you and you see a gun of any type, just get down," said Munoz, who moved from San Diego about a year ago to work in oil country. "Luckily I got down. ... Sure enough, I hear the shots go off. He let off at least three shots on me."

He said he was treated at a hospital and is physically OK, though bewildered by the experience.

"I'm just trying to turn the corner and I got shot—I'm getting shot at? What's the world coming to? For real?"

# Amarillo OK AR NM Midland Dallas 20 LA Odessa TEXAS 45 As Anarillo OK AR Midland Dallas Gulf of Mexico Graphic: Staff, TNS Source: AP

# Police unsure why man went on shooting binge in



**18** TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Overdrive

**AUTO REVIEW** 

# exus raises the bar on redesigned ES 350'Ultra Luxury'

By BARRY SPYKER TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The 7th generation Lexus ES sits on a new platform, longer and wider, bringing more comfort for passengers and more space for your stuff. Cool enough, but what's with the designation "Ultra Luxury" applied to the top-line version?

What high-tech gizmos and extraordinary niceties can warrant such a moniker? Does it have hovercraft technology? Will it drive itself? Is there a wet bar in the rear seat?

Alas, no, but the redesigned top-shelf ES does come with an admirable suite of luxuries. The Ultra has semi-aniline leather seats (softer and more durable), with 14-way power with 4-way lumbar for the driver and 10-way for the passenger. There is a power rear sunshade and manual reardoor sunshades to block glare and heat, a convenient handsfree/power trunk lid, and even an upgraded suspension for comfort.

It gets even better if you pull out the wallet and add options like a high-tech safety package (\$1,900) and navigation/Mark Levinson audio package with 1,800 watts and 17 speakers (\$3,000). Another grand buys a panoramic glass roof and heated wood and leather steering wheel.

The five-seat midsize sedan has good shoulder, head- and leg room in both rows. The center of the rear row, however, has a pretty big hump.

Cargo space is generous,



The 2019 Lexus ES 350 Ultra Luxury.

too, with a trunk that grows this year to 16.7 cubic feet, among the largest in the midsize-luxury segment.

Lexus redesigned the dash to accommodate an optional 12.3-inch infotainment screen on the center stack. It has crisp graphics but still is bothersome to use with the touchpad, which forces the driver to take his eyes off the road. At least there are redundant buttons and knobs for climate and audio.

Two displays keep the driver well informed at a glance:

8-inch reconfigurable screen in the gauge cluster and a large head-up display offering directionals, speed limits and fuel supply.

There are two oddly placed knobs jutting out atop the instrument panel. One is for drive modes (Eco, Normal and Sport), but the other is to shut off traction control. Really? That's a prominent spot for a low-priority knob in a luxury car.

On the road, the cabin is ultra-quiet (oops, there's that ultra word again), thanks to

acoustic glass and improved sound-deadening materials. Seriously, there is virtually no road or wind noise.

Power comes from the same 3.5-liter naturally aspirated engine as last year, but it gets a boost in horsepower and torque thanks to the addition of direct and port injection. It now produces 302 hp, up from 268, and 267 pound-feet of torque.

The front-wheel-drive ES has more giddy-up, too, with the new 8-speed transmission replacing last year's outdated 6-speed. Zero-to-60 mph can now be done, quietly, in 6.6 seconds — a half-second better than last year, Lexus says. Top speed is reported at 131 mph.

Perhaps more important in a Lexus, the ride quality is all luxury — smooth as that hovercraft and maybe too floaty. Throttle is lazy in Eco mode but picks up in Sport. EPA estimates 26 mpg combined city-highway.

Safety features are bundled into the Lexus Safety System+ 2.0, which includes adaptive

#### NUTS & BOLTS

#### 2019 Lexus ES 350 **Ultra Luxury**

- MSRP: \$43,150
- **As tested**: \$53,742 (Navigation/Levinson audio package, \$3,000; tech safety package, \$1,900; triple beam

LED headlights, \$1,515;

and 18-inch wheels, \$950) ■ What's all the excitement about? Lexus redesigned ES 350 inside and out, added

panoramic glass roof, \$500;

- space, luxuries and power ■ Powertrain: 3.5-liter naturally aspirated V-6 engine mated to new 8-speed
- How's the performance? Smooth and linear acceleration; 0-60 mph improved this year to 6.6 seconds; extremely comfortable highway ride
- Fuel economy: EPA estimates say 22 mpg city, 33 highway; 26 mpg combined

cruise control, pre-collision system (detects vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists in low-light conditions). lane departure alert and lanekeep assist. Parking sensors with automatic braking and 360-degree camera are available — the latter a helpful option in detecting small animals and objects.

The ES currently is the best selling midsize-luxury sedan in the nation and sales this year are already 20% better than last, dealers say. Call it Ultra Luxury or don't, but it unquestionably is Ultra Popular.

# Monitoring your brake pads

My Corolla now has close to 40,000 miles and a friend told me my brakes will be worn out soon, if they are not already. How do I know?

**A:** This may be true, and it's easy to find out! Brake life is the result of many variables: the type of vehicle, how it's driven, the specific brake pad composition, environmental conditions, among others.

Most brake pads include a wear sensor, a metal tab that begins rubbing on the brake rotor when the pad's friction material wears thin. It creates a squealing noise that is oddly more apparent at first when the brakes aren't applied. The noise may quickly alternate or be steady. It will worsen gradually to the point of embarrassment and annoyance. Vehicles not so equipped should have periodic inspections!

Checking brake pad thickness, at least a rough estimate, depending on wheel type, may be possible by simply looking through the wheel spokes with an angled inspection mirror. Better is a close look as the tires/wheels are removed for rotation. Color-coded thickness keys are often used to demonstrate remaining pad thickness to the consumer.

The friction material on a new brake pad is typically about 8-12 millimeters thick, and those that are ready for replacement are worn down to about 3 mm. It's important to replace the pads before the friction material wears out completely, as

the pad's steel backing will begin scoring/damaging the brake rotor if contact continues.

When brakes are to be serviced, there can be many opinions regarding what should be done. If the brake rotors are in good condition (sufficient thickness, smooth surface finish) and no pulsation has been observed when slowing, a simple pad replacement is usually sufficient. If the rotors are scored or pulsation is evident, they can usually be resurfaced, if remaining rotor thickness is adequate. Many shops simply replace them, as parts prices have become quite reasonable. The downside here is a cheap rotor is nobody's friend. I'd prefer a slightly imperfect original rotor over an inferior quality replacement. Or insist on a mid grade or better replacement. Same goes for pad quality!

Other brake services may be offered/pushed as well, such as caliper replacement, or installing what's known as a "loaded caliper" which contains new pads. I believe this to be overkill unless the vehicle has many miles or caliper leakage or stickiness has occurred. Flushing/renewing brake fluid is a good idea in any case perhaps each 4-5 years or sooner if specified.

Q: My windshield washer stopped working. The wipers are fine, just no spray. How hard would this be to fix?

A: This may be pretty simple to fix, depending on your

#### UNDER THE HOOD

By BRAD BERGHOLDT

Tribune News Service

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Monterey Peninsula College in Monterey, Calif. Readers can contact him by email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com. Per-

sonal replies are attempted. An archive of past columns and additional consumer automotive information can be found at www. bradsautoadvice.com.

make and model.

If both washers stopped at the same time, it's unlikely the spray nozzles are clogged. And since the wipers work, the fuse should be good.

Was any service recently performed under-hood? If so there's a chance the washer hose somewhere between the pump and nozzles became kinked or disconnected.

Can you hear the washer pump run, and/or does a puddle appear on the ground beneath the vehicle? If not the pump is likely faulty. This cylindrical component is usually plugged into the side or bottom of the washer fluid reservoir. Depending on make/model, this could be a \$20 part and possibly pretty simple to renew. If it's a more expensive part or access is poor, testing at the pump for a viable electrical command would be warranted prior to replacement.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 **19** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Life & Style







ENICE, Italy (AP)—"Ad Astra" looks and sounds like a space epic with a movie star lead in Brad Pitt, but there's a lot more going on beneath the surface.

Pitt said Thursday at the Venice International Film Festival that he and director James Gray are really digging into the idea of masculinity.

"Having grown up in an era where you're taught to be strong and not show weakness ... there is certain value in that but there's also a barrier that's created denying those pains or those things you feel ashamed to reveal," Pitt said. "I think we were asking the question: Is a better definition for us actually being more open divining a better relationship with your loved ones, with your parents, with your kids, and with yourself?"

"Ad Astra" follows Pitt's detached astronaut character Roy McBride on a journey to the outer reaches of space to find his estranged father, a famous astronaut himself who has long been thought dead.

In addition to starring, Pitt also produced the film which he said was one of the most challenging he's ever done. Not only did he and Gray use primarily practical sets (he laughed that he and friend George Clooney "exchanged some discomfort stories" about the strings and rigs used to simulate anti-gravity in space films) but it's an emotionally taxing role as well.

Pitt had to draw on personal pains and wounds to make his performance as honest as possible. Gray, who has been a friend of Pitt's for 25 years, would send him emails every day revealing ideas from his own life that would help set the tone for whatever was needed for that particular day on set.

"We don't have a normal male relationship, we've always been quite open about our foibles and had big laughs at our embarrassing moments and (been) open about our feelings about our perceived failures or missteps," Pitt said. "It was a really unique experience."

Gray said he thinks its important that actors don't "worry about being liked or hated or sympathetic or unsympathetic."

"You can only worry about being honest about who you are and be vulnerable and open," he added.

The film had its world premiere at the 76th edition of the Venice festival and is in competition for the Golden Lion, alongside films like "Joker" and "Marriage Story." Past winners like "The Shape of Water" and "Roma" have in recent years gone on to win or gain best picture nominations come Oscar time. But when asked about the Oscar prospects of "Ad Astra," Pitt, who has yet to win an Oscar for acting despite being nominated twice, deflected.

"Every year I see amazing talent getting acknowledged and amazing talent not getting acknowledged. And my feeling is when your number comes up it's great fun and when someone else's number comes up it's very fun to see," Pitt said. "How was that for a dodge?"

His focus right now is simply finally releasing the film to the public. "Ad Astra's" release date has been pushed back a few times, as Fox integrated its release schedule with Disney after

"I just want to get this film out," Pitt said. "It's a challenging film. It's subtle and it's operat-

ing on many cylinders and it has something to say about who we are, the soul, why we hang on, what's our purpose? I'm curious to see where it lands. "

"Ad Astra" opens nationwide on Sept. 20.





# Trump attacks Fox News, but the network remains silent

By DAVID BAUDER AP MEDIA WRITER

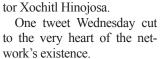
**NEW YORK** (AP)—The one constant with President Donald Trump's increasingly frequent attacks on Fox News has been the network's refusal to respond, even as the president complains that "Fox isn't working for us anymore."

In recent days, however, some Fox personalities like Bret Baier, Juan Williams and Brit Hume have ceased looking the other way.

Fox is stocked with pro-Trump commentators like Sean Hannity, Jeanine Pirro and Laura Ingraham, and the president is a frequent viewer. He speaks up when he sees things that displease him, with news anchor Shepard Smith, chief White House correspon-

dent John Roberts, commentator Williams, contributor Donna Brazile and network

pollsters all targeted this summer. He groused Wednesday that news anchor Sandra Smith offered "zero pushback" in an interview with Democratic communications direc-



Trump

"The new Fox News is letting millions of great people down," he wrote. "We have to start looking for a new News outlet. Fox isn't working for us anymore."

Fox's official response? There was none.

Current Fox executives declined comment for this story. They're not necessarily

> alone; NBC News doesn't respond to tweets, either. Some who've heard the president's complaints liken it to a basketball coach "working the refs," and the best stand stoically while get-

ting an earful. There's a concern that responding just gives Trump's commentary more attention, and that Twitter attacks are simply the white noise of this administration.

The calculus is also different at Fox because that's where many Trump supporters gravitate. If their favorite politician is perceived as being under attack by their favorite network, how would those viewers react? Trump didn't like questions posed by Fox's Megyn Kelly during a 2015 debate, and boos rained down upon her when she later appeared before a live audience gathered for a Hannity telecast.

"I don't think Fox cares about Trump's attacks," said Alex Conant, a Republican communications consultant who heads Firehouse Strategies. "They just care about their audience."

Still, Trump's contention that Fox is "working for us" is damaging for a network when that perception has made it more difficult to cover the Democratic presidential campaign. Trump hasn't distinguished between Fox's opinion and news employees,

which the network has long done to counter the argument that its purpose is to advance one point of view.

"That's so scary that the president of the United States thinks that a media organization is his," said Williams, the commentator called on to give a liberal point of view, on a Fox radio program. "You know, that's not good."

Fox's elder statesman Hume tweeted in response to Trump on Wednesday: "Fox News isn't supposed to work for you."

It's worth noting that even as Trump has attacked Fox, he still seeks its audience more than any other outlet. He gave an interview Thursday to Fox's Brian Kilmeade.

Fox News is routinely the most watched cable network, with an average of 2.33 million viewers in prime time last week.

#### Hollywood's summer ends 2% down despite Disney dominance

NEW YORK (AP)—Never before has one studio so dominated summer at the movies. The Walt Disney Co. accounted for about half of all ticket sales in U.S. and Canada theaters on the season, which came to a close Sunday with the Gerard Butler action thriller "Angel Has Fallen" topping the box office for the second weekend.

Summer ticket sales finished 2% behind last year, according to data firm Comscore, a slight downturn that came despite an unprecedented display by Disney. The studio's approximate \$2.2 billion in domestic summer box office is greater than that of all the major studios combined.

Summer, which for Hollywood runs from the first weekend in May to Labor Day, traditionally ends with a whimper as few new releases seek to draw audiences over the holiday weekend. That was especially true this weekend as nothing new dented the top 10. Lionsgate's "Angel Has Fallen" came on top again with an estimated \$11.6 million.

The final numbers on Hollywood's summer didn't add up to the box-office bonanza that some predicted. Instead, the main storyline on the summer came to be the yawning gap between Disney and the rest of the industry. Disney finalized its \$71 billion acquisition of 20th Century Fox in March, but it was the studio's own offerings that propelled its market dominance.

Five of Disney's films crossed \$1 billion this summer, including the season's biggest hit, "The Lion King." It currently ranks seventh all-time globally with \$1.56 billion in ticket sales. "Avengers: Endgame" (\$2.796 billion) opened in late April, just before the summer began. "Toy Story 4" and "Aladdin" both easily cleared \$1 billion. The only non-Disney film in the summer's top four was Sony's "Spider-Man: Far From Home," and that film was produced by Disney's Marvel Studios.

Disney has been the market leader for the last four years in Hollywood as its high-priced acquisitions—Lucasfilm, Pixar, Marvel, and now Fox have given the studio the intellectual property firepower for a movie world increasingly focused on franchises.

Only one original film this summer ranked among the top 10, and it came in 10th. Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood" will have made an estimated \$130.8 million through Monday domestically, plus sizable ticket sales abroad. It, along with "Spider-Man," helped lead Sony to its best summer since 2006—but a distant No.

Disney's success has been a welcome dose of reliability for theater owners in need of surehits amid widespread anxiety over the rise of streaming. And it has prompted fears of cultural monopoly.

"For the industry, I think it's a point of stress, to put it mildly. Other studios are now strategizing around Disney. That's what you have to do," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "But lest we think Disney was the only game in town, there were other studios that found opportunities within the calendar."

Lionsgate was among those that eked out some breathing room. Along with its August successes ("Angel Has Fallen," "Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark"), the studio's "John Wick: Chapter 3—Parabellum" was, with \$170.9 million, one of the summer's biggest successes.

"For me it's important to dispel that audiences are only going to see Marvel and Pixar and the big tentpole," said David Spitz, president of domestic distribution for Lionsgate. "Movies like 'Scary Stories' and 'Good Boys' and 'Angel Has Fallen' prove that there is an audience for that. 'Good Boys' was very encouraging because prior to that it was: 'Comedies are dead. They're just for streaming.' And that's not the case."

## Scarlett Johansson says 'Marriage Story' felt fated

VENICE, Italy (AP)—When Noah Baumbach asked Scarlett Johansson to meet with him about a new film he was going to write about a divorce. he didn't know she was going through one in real life.

"It felt fated in a way," Johansson said. "It came somehow at just the right time."

Johansson stars alongside Adam Driver in "Marriage Story," a Netflix film about a couple—she plays an actress and he plays a theater director-with an 8-year-old son managing a bi-coastal separation and divorce. It premiered Thursday at the Venice Film Festival, where it is competing for the Golden Lion award.

Although Johansson had her own experiences to draw on having most recently divorced French businessman Romain Dauriac in 2017, she said there was something of everyone behind the film in the brutally honest but tender character study.

Baumbach wrote the script knowing that Driver and Johansson would play the couple in question. He said he realized in the writing process that, "Through a divorce we could explore a marriage."

"Although they're coming apart, love always exists," he said. "It's in every scene, it's there."

Laura Dern, who plays Johansson's divorce lawyer, added that it personifies "the business of divorce."

One scene, in which the two leads have a particularly traumatic fight, had audiences at the Venice Film Festival buzzing. Driver said he didn't really analyze it afterward, but that it was two "pretty difficult" days. Baumbach added that it was "harrowing" and they'd often have to stop for a break, with the actors either going to their rooms or tak-



Actress Scarlett Johansson poses for photographers upon arrival for the photo call of the film 'Marriage Story' at the 76th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2019.

to regroup.

"They would run the whole scene almost every time. It was like watching

ing a walk around the block two of the best athletes compete," Baumbach said. "In many ways it was one of the most rewarding experience I've had as a director."

The film will make stops at the Telluride and Toronto Film Festivals before hitting theaters on Nov. 6, followed by its Netflix debut on Dec. 6.

# Comedian Kevin Hart injured in Southern California car crash

#### SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

#### 2 dozen injured in barricade collapse at Seattle music fest

SEATTLE (AP) — Officials say more than two dozen people were injured when a stage barricade collapsed during a performance at a Seattle music festival, although no one was seriously hurt. Seattle Fire Department spokesman David Cuerpo told news outlets that around 25 people were evaluated for injuries after the 4-foothigh (1-meter-high) steel barricade collapsed Saturday night at the Seattle Center, which is playing host to this weekend's Bumbershoot Music & Arts Festival. Electronic music artist Jai Wolf was performing at the time. Four people were hospitalized with minor injuries. Cuerpo says members of the crowd of around 3,000 people were pressed against the barrier, causing it to fall. Wolf canceled the rest of his set. The festival said in a statement that on-site medical teams assisted those injured.

#### **Prosecutors: R.** Kelly isn't in solitary confinement

CHICAGO (AP) — Federal

prosecutors say R. Kelly has had a cellmate for some time, refuting a claim by the singer's attorneys in which they are seeking Kelly's release from what they described as "cruel and unusual punishment" in solitary confinement. In a Friday court filing, prosecutors say Kelly has had a cellmate for some time at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Chicago where he's being held on sexual misconduct and other charges. They also say Kelly "has had more than one cellmate so far" and even refused an order last month to take a cellmate. The Chicago Sun-Times reports that prosecutors contend that the 52-yearold Kelly is seeking special treatment because he's a celebrity. A judge is scheduled to consider Kelly's attorneys' motion next week.

#### **Kansas movie theater** recognized for its longevity

OTTAWA, Kan. (AP) — The oldest continuously operating movie theater in the world might figure to be in New York or Hollywood.

How about Kansas? The Topeka Capital-Journal reports that Ottawa, some 50 miles (80 kilometers) southwest of Kansas City, Missouri, is home to the Plaza 1907 Cinema, showing films since May 22, 1907, when blackand-white, silent movies ruled the day. What sets the theater in the town of 12,300 people apart is that over the past 112 years, it has never shut down and has remained at the same location. Owner Scott Zaremba said that in the early days, films were made of a highly flammable material, so fires were common. "One of the reasons we're the oldest continuously operating theater in the world is we didn't burn down," said Zaremba, 53, who became co-owner of the Plaza in 2014 and took over as sole proprietor in July 2018. The Plaza applied for inclusion in the Guinness Book of World Records in 2017, and last year, it achieved the distinction of being the "World's Oldest Operating Purpose-Built Cinema" after it was determined it was two days

older than another movie house in Denmark.

#### **Spain: ex-king says** feeling "phenomenal" after heart surgery

MADRID (AP) — Spain's former monarch Juan Carlos I says he's feeling "phenomenal" with "new plumbing" after a successful triple bypass heart surgery. "It feels like a truck ran me over, but now it's about getting rid of the truck and looking ahead," the 81-year-old king emeritus said Sunday as he was driven out of a hospital in the outskirts of Madrid. "New pipes, new plumbing, (it feels) phenomenal," he added. Quirón Salud Hospitals Managing Director Lucía Alonso said the former king was discharged one week after the operation because he is "clinically stable." The operation was Juan Carlos' 17th surgical procedure and had been scheduled two months ago. The king emeritus abdicated in 2014 in favor of his son, Felipe, ending a near 39year reign. He retired from public duties last May.

(AP)—Actor-comedian Kevin Hart has been injured in the crash of a vintage muscle car in the hills above Malibu.

California Highway Patrol **Hart** collision report

says the 40-year-old Hart was a passenger in a 1970 Plymouth Barracuda that went off Mulholland Highway and rolled down an embankment around 12:45 a.m. Sunday.

driver, 28-year-old Jared Black, messages.



both suffered "major back injuries" and were taken to hospitals.

Another passenger, 31-year-old Rebecca Broxterman, only complained of pain.

The CHP report says the car immediately went out of con-

trol as it turned from a canyon road onto the highway.

The report says the driver was not under the influence of alcohol.

A representative for Hart The report says Hart and the didn't immediately reply to

#### Alex Trebek, saying he's on the mend, back at 'Jeopardy!'

**ANGELES** (AP) — "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek has returned to work, saying he's "on the mend" following treatment for pancreatic cancer.

The game show posted a video Thurs- Trebek day on Twitter show-

ing the 79-year-old host back on set and promising "a good year" ahead. He actually started work on July 22, his birthday.



airing on Sept. 9. Trebek announced his diagnosis in March. He said he planned to

coming Season 36

are slated to begin

beat the disease's low survival rate with the love and support of family and friends and

with prayers from viewers.

The American Cancer Society estimates 3% of patients with stage 4 pancreatic cancer are alive New episodes of the up- 5 years after being diagnosed.

### Tokyo Olympics undecided on Placido Domingo appearance

**TOKYO** (AP)—The Tokyo Olympics organizing committee has not decided what it plans to do about the appearance of Placido Domingo at a 2020 Games event and is looking into allegations the opera star sexually harassed several women.

The Associated Press reported earlier this month on extensive allegations against Domingo, spanning decades. Women accused Domingo of using his power to pressure them into sexual relationships,

including at the Los Angeles Opera, where he is the longtime general director.

Domingo called allegations "deeply troubling, and as presented, inaccurate," adding **Domingo** that he believed "all

of my interactions and relationships were always welcomed and consensual."

The organizing committee said Friday in a statement:



Tokyo 2020 is seeking to clarify the situation."

Domingo is scheduled to appear next April in an Olympic-sponsored event that brings together opera and the traditional Japanese

theater of Kabuki featuring Ebizo Ichikawa, as part of its Nippon Festival, which seeks to promote Japanese culture and diversity.

Global reaction has been mixed on Domingo's scheduled appearances. Two U.S. performances were canceled by the organizers, but his European engagements have continued.

The #MeToo movement has not caught on in Japan with the intensity it has in some Western nations, partly because pressures remain high for victims to keep quiet amid widespread fears about a social backlash.

#### Alice Marie Johnson hawks Kim Kardashian West shapewear line

NEW YORK (AP) Alice Marie Johnson, who Kim Kardashian West helped get out of prison, has popped up on Instagram hawking the reality TV star's new shapewear line.

Johnson looks

into the camera wearing a black sculpting bodysuit from SKIMS and says the shapewear makes her feel "free." She calls Kardashian West her "war



Johnson

angel" who did not let anything stand between her and Johnson's freedom.

Memphis The grandmother was a first-time offender when she was sentenced to life plus 25 years in a cocaine

conspiracy case. Her sentence was commuted last year after Kardashian West visited the White House to plead for her freedom.

#### Widow contemplating a move is bound by many family ties

EAR ABBY: My husband died in 2001. There is a man I have been seeing for 17 years I'll call Jack. He has a home in Georgia. I live in Pennsylvania, where I share a home with my grown son and my daughter, her husband and my 6-year-old grandson.

Jack has now retired and wants me to move down to Georgia with him. I have a mortgage on my home, which I pay. My kids cannot afford that payment, although they do contribute a little every month to live there. I can't just quit my job and go to Georgia and look for a job. I need to have one before I go down there.

Well, I finally landed a job there, but sadly, they don't offer benefits, which worries me. My other issue is, I am very close to my grandson. I'll be 12 hours away, so besides video-chatting, I won't get to see him or interact with him.

Anytime I have gone to Georgia for a week and returned home, my grandson was very emotional. I am scared that if I go to Georgia and the boy doesn't do well with the situation, I will be stuck down there. Visiting home will be almost impossible as I only get one week's vacation with this new job, and I can't just jump in the car on a weekend because I would be driving the whole weekend and not have any time to spend with my family.

I am torn between going and not going. I honestly don't know what to do. I am just so scared. What would you do?

TORN BY LOVE

DEAR TORN: The ideal solution would be for Jack to move where you are so you can keep your job and benefits and pay the mortgage on your home. Your adult children are not financially independent, and your grandson is not emotionally resilient enough to adjust to your absence. I do not think you are in a position to go anywhere until these issues are resolved.

**DEAR ABBY:** When ordering food at different ethnic restaurants here in the U.S., should people always speak in English, even if they are learning the language of the country the years ago (Sept. 5, 2016). It is worth going back into my food is from? For instance, if you go to a Mexican restaurant archive and reviewing. and hear waiters speaking Spanish, and you are learning Spanish but are by no means fluent, is it polite to try and order in Spanish, or is it considered rude?

My worry is that they will assume I think they don't know English and that I'm being condescending, especially if they respond with something I don't understand in the same language that I was just trying to speak. Should a person always ask, "Can I practice my French (or any language you're trying to practice)?" or should one save it for international travel, private language lessons or another time? What do you think is proper in this situation?

LOST IN TRANSLATION

**DEAR LOST:** I printed something on this subject three

#### **DEAR ABBY**

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

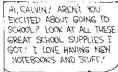


To avoid any misunderstandings or hurt feelings, assume the server speaks English. If you wish to practice your second language, tell the person you are trying to sharpen your language skills, ask if the person would mind your doing that and ask to be corrected if you make a mistake.

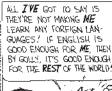
Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# **Pastimes**

#### Calvin and Hobbes









EVERYONE SHOULD SPEAK ENGLISH OR JUST SHUT UP YAR  $oldsymbol{I}$  TAHW STAHT

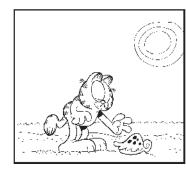


#### **Bv Bill Waterson** YOU SHOULD THEY CAN MAKE





#### **Garfield**<sub>®</sub>







#### Adam@home

#### By Bryan Basset

#### The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

By Jim Davis





4 Physique

5 Dagger

6 Division

word

7 Casual

8 Manually

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#### **CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** 41 Unpaid 3 Grecian 22 Chest vessels protector

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craft 20 Prettify 21 Poem of praise

22 Upscale auto 23 Streetsmart 26 Museum

display 30 Mayberry tyke 31 Task 32 Nile bird 33 Hearty embrace 35 In a iam 36 Peruke

Solution time: 22 mins. Yesterday's answer 9-3

46 Police 37 Pub order officer 38 Presenta-47 Reuben tion aid bread 12 14 28 29 26 27 33

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rita** Volk, 29; Shaun White, 33; Omi, 33; Garrett Hedlund, 35

Happy Birthday: Balance, integrity and proper planning will encourage success. Your hard work will not go unnoticed, and your ability to parlay your experience into what you want to do next looks promising. Positive change is heading in your direction, and with an open mind, you will discover new beginnings. It's time to put everything together and enjoy what unfolds. Your numbers are 6, 10, 18, 24, 29, 38, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take care of your personal business. If you leave something important in someone else's hands, you will be disappointed in the results. Don't wait until it's too late to make a change. Be precise, and make your move.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Live and learn. Take the route that gives you the most considerable freedom to follow

your heart and reach your goals. Personal growth, health management and physical or spiritual travel will spark your imagination and lead to new beginnings.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): If you give too much, you'll end up in a vulnerable position. Offer only an amount equal to what you will be provided in return. Equality will be the key to your success when dealing with people. OOO

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can dream all you want, but when it comes to putting your plans in place, know precisely what you can afford to spend and how much time it will take to reach your objective. Ro-

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be careful what you wish for. Too much of anything will turn into a burden. Refuse to let your emotions take over if someone tries to dictate what you should do. Listen attentively, and go about your business. ��

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Participation will lead to new associates and opportunities. What you discover will

encourage you to get involved in something you want to pursue. Let passion tempt you to explore new adventures. Personal improvements are favored. 🛇 🗘 🗘

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look at every aspect of a situation before you decide to participate. Don't jump too quickly, especially when there is money involved. A change at home will turn out better than anticipated. Do

your research. OOO SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Share your thoughts and feelings with someone who can help you put your plans in motion. A change in the way you live or move forward with someone you love will encourage

you to do things that bring you joy. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take your time. If someone tries to coax you into something you have res-

ervations about doing, take a pass. Put the past behind you so you can move forward with no regrets.

**EUGENIA** 

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Routine will put you at ease. If change is necessary, implement it by using methods that have worked for you in the past. A commitment, contract or personal improvement will encourage an efficient and more productive outcome. OOOO

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't make changes based on emotions. Give yourself a chance to digest what's going on around you before you share your opinion. Someone will offer a different perspective and give good reason not to make a fuss. 🗪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep life simple, stick to the facts and go about your business. Question anyone who is excessive or who tries to talk you into spending without cause. Be a good influence on those who face or offer temptation.

Birthday Baby: You are intense, passionate and possessive. You are hardworking and precise.

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Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

6 5			9		2		1	7
5				7		8		
	9				4			
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Difficulty Level \*\*

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis

Sudoku increases from Monday

to Saturday.

		Yesterday's Answer													
		6	1	5	3	8	7	9	4	2					
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9/03

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

#### WONDERWORD **OUELLET**

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the

TH	E GO	DDE	SS 1	HINE	RVA						solut	ion:	10 le	tters
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М	Ε	0	L	S	R	Ε	D	1	P	S	L	Y	Н	R
0	Ε	G	1	F	Т	Ε	T	Α	Т	U	R	S	E	1
D	R	0	V	Н	1	Α	M	1	S	Т	Ε	T	N	٧
S	T	S	E	Т	L	E	Т	C	E	L	Α	1	A	E
1	Ν	R	Y	Y	Т	A	1	0	P	M	(1)	Α	N	R
W	Ε	Α	V	1	N	G	P	M	A	0	R	T	A	D
K	P	E	S	E	E	N	Ε	M	U	M	1	1	C	E
E	R	P	S	T	Α	Т	L	Ε	0	S	P	Ν	S	E
Ε	E	S	Α	М	P	Α	Ε	R	Ε	Т	1	Р	U	J
R	S	R	0	М	Ε	D	1	C	1	Ν	Ε	C	R	U
G	Т	R	Α	D	Е	S	S	Е	D	D	0	G	Т	Ν
S	T	F	Α	R	С	0	1	Ν	Α	G	Ε	D	Е	0
0.20	19 Ann	fraue N	AcMen	Syndi	cation	WWW	v wond	erword	Loom					0/2

Alma Mater, Armor, Athena, Caelus, Coinage, Commerce, Crafts, Deity, Emperors, Etruscan, Gift, Goddess, Greek, Italy, Juno, Jupiter, Latin, Liverpool, Logos, Medicine, Metis, Music, Olive, Owl, Patronage, Pavia, Poetry, River Dee, Roman, Serpent, Spear, Spiders, Spindle, Strategic, Temples, Titaness, Trade, Tree, Warfare, Weaving, Wisdom Yesterday's Answer: Redox

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD**, Volumes 39, 40, and 42 through 56, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

ITS CORPORATION

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT** 

(3) Heavy Equipment Operators - \$9.05 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Duties may include but not limited to: Operating and/or tending machinery equipped with scoops, shovels or buckets to excavate and load loose materials. These machinery may include excavates, backness, compactors and buildozers. Moving levers, depressing foot pedals, and turning dials to operate power machinery. Setting up or inspecting equipment prior to operation. Observing hand signals, grade stakes or other markings. When operating machines so that work can be performed to specifications. Operates machinery to perform activities such as back filling, excavations, vibrating or breaking rocks or concrete.

All interested applicants can send resume to: info@itscorporation.net or visit our office at P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Tau, Chalan Pale Amold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday, For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNIMI Labor website-marianas/labor.net

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**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT** 

(1) Customer Service Representative - \$9.26 per hour, plus x 1.5 0T, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

Duties may include but not limited to: Conferring with customers by phone or in person to provide information about products or services, take or enter orders, cancel accounts, or obtain details of complaints; checking to ensure that appropriate changes were made to resolve customer's problems; keeping records of customer interactions or transactions, customer service or billing complaints by performing activities such as exchanging service, refunding money or adjusting bills, and completing contract forms, preparing documents or issuing service discontinuance orders using computers.

All interested applicants can send resume to:info@itscorporation.net Or visit our office P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Talu, Chalan Pale Amold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 258-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday, For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNIMI Labor website-marianas/abor.net

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GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) Counter Clerks - \$7.31 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Receive orders, generally in person, for repairs, rentals, and services. May describe available options, compute costs, and accept payment. Greet customers and discuss the type, quality, and quantity of merchandise sought for rental. Compute charges or merchandise or services and receive payments. Answer telephones to provide information and receive orders. Provide information about rental items, such as availability, operation, or description. Rent items, arrange for provision of services to customers, and accept returns.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

High School Graduate Minimum 12 months experience Knowledge in operating heavy equipment

#### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**CFPJ Corporation** (18) Maintenance

& Repair Workers, General \$8,33/per hr.

Interested applicants, pls call 235-2375 email: cfpjcorp.2014@yahoo.com

#### JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

CURRY ENTERPRISES, LLC 1 CHEF AND HEAD COOK

starting salary \$13.87 to \$19.00 Interested applicants,

pls call 233-3372 email: mabang1521@gmail.com

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Please call 235-NEWS

#### **APEX BUILDERS, INC** JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) SALES PERSON - \$8.57 to 8.88 per hour plus 1.5 07 Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8.00 am to 5.00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

DUILEXTREPORSIBILITIES:
Self merchandies, such as furniture, motor vehicles and parts, appliances, or apparel to consumers. Greet customers and ascertain what each customer wants or needs. Recommend, select, and help locate or obtain merchandise based on customer meeds and desires. Compute sales prices, total purchases, and neesive and process cash or credit computer. payment. Prepare merchandise for purchase or rental Answer questions regarding the store and its merchandise.

- DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

  High School Graduate or its equivalence;
  At least 12 months experience

  Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, electric typewriter
- All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Turn Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8.00 AM to 5.00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtaine from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site —Marianaslabor.net.

APEX BUILDERS. INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYE

#### DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

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#### APEX BUILDERS. INC. APEX BUILDERS, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Two (02) Maintenance Technicians \$8.33 per hour plus 1.5 0T Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: DUTE\_RESPONSIBILITIES.

Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair, Uniter may involve pipe fitting; boiler making; insulating, welding; machining; carpentry, repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; shafting, algining, and balancing new equipment; and repairing buldings, floors, or statis. Rispect, operate, or lest machiney or equipment to diagnose to access and remove deletitive parts, using hosts, crains, hand to access and remove deletitive parts, using hosts, crains, hand tooks, or power tools. Perform nortime maintenance, such as inspecting drives, motors, or belts, checking fluid levels, replacing filters, or doing other preventive maintenance actions. Diagnose mechanical problems and determine how to correct them, checking fluids, and the propositive maintenance actions. Diagnose mechanical problems and determine how to correct them, checking maintenance actions, as inspecting, experies manuals, or parts catalogs, as necessars, Repair machines, equipment, or structures, using tools such as haminers, solven as inspecting instruments or electrical or electronic testing devices.

#### DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS: - High School Graduate or its equivalence;

- o High Scriool of adulate on its equivalence; At least 12 months experience. Knowledge in using hand and power tools such as cordless power drills power circular saws and pullers.
- All interested applicants can submit resume at <a href="mailto:rickemptgs">rickemptgs</a> All of submit cass P.O. Box 504357 CK. Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOY

#### GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(25) **Heavy Equipment Operators**, \$8.50 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

am to 4:0 pm

DITES/RESPONSIBILITIES.

Upgrafe one or several types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move, and grade earth, erect structures, or pour concrete or other hard surface pavement. May repair and maintain equipment in addition to other duties, Learn and follow safety regulations, advant option to avoid potential hazards or obstructions, such as utility lines, other equipment, other workers, or falling wires, prior to beginning work, Monitor operations to ensure that health and safety standards are met. Adjust hand wheels and depress pedals to control attachments, such as blades, buckets, scrapers, or swing booms.

#### DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS: High School Graduate:

- At least 12 months experience
  Knowledge in operating and controlling power construction equipment and in monitoring of gauges, dials or other indicators to make sure that the equipment is working properly.
- All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@eppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 50435°C K. In Mischi Kilderman Road. As Perdido or contact us @ 6670243-900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AMI to 5:00 PM Mondays to Iridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy —marginas/subm ref the CMM, Labor web site—marginas/subm ref

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT

## APEX BUILDERS, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Three (03) Auto Technicians 7.98 per hour plus  $1.5\ \mathrm{OT}$  Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to  $4:30\ \mathrm{PM}$ 

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicles or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzes, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
   At least 24 months experience.
   Knowledge in using hand, power tools and tester.
- All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.

Two (02) Mechanics 7.98 per hour plus 1.5 0T Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: <u>DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:</u>
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle sand test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to botain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

- DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

  High School Graduate or its equivalence;
  At least 24 months experience.

  Knowledge in using hand, power tools and tester.
- All interested applicants can submit resume at <a href="mailto:riche@gppcinc.com">riche@gppcinc.com</a> or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Jun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670) 234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYE

#### GPPC, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(12) **Mechanics** \$7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

#### DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- At least 24 months experience
   Knowledge in using hand and power tools and testers.
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Duties may include but not limited to: Apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the direction of the Operating Manager, Calculate dimentions, square footage, profile and component specifications and material quantities using calculator orcmputer. Read and review blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimentional drawings and design layouts for projects to ensure conformance with specifications. Confer with supervisors.

#### DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Associate Degree in Civil Engineering
   Minimum 24 months experience
   Civil Engineering license or equivalent
- All interested applicants can send resume to:info@itscorporation.net Or visit our office P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Annold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 255-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday, For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CIVM Labor vebsite-marianaskabor.net

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DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES.
Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles.
Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices, Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

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   Knowledge in using hand and power tools
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#### At least 06 months experience Must be a computer literate

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Help plumbers, propertiers, steamfitters, or pipelayers by performing 
duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding 
materials or took, and cleaning work are and equipment. Measure, 
cut, thread and assemble new pipe, placing the assembled pipe in 
anagess or other supports. Cut or did holes in walls or floors to 
accommodate the passage of pipes. Perform rough-ins; repair and 
replace fortures and water heaters, and locate; repair, or remove 
leaking or broken pipes. Assist pipe filters in the layout, assembly, and 
stassifiation of pring for an ammosting, gos, and weater septems. Cut 
assemblies to banks, pumps, or systems, using pland took, Requisition 
tooks and equipments asked type and size of the pipe, and collect and 
transport materials and equipment to work layout harders and 
hanges on walls and colleings to hold pipes, and sets lesses or inserts 
to provide support for pipes. Euravate and grade ditches, and lay and 
pin pipe for water and sever service. Disassemble and remove the 
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Duties/Responsibilities:

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# Verlander pitches no-hitter in win vs Blue Jays

TORONTO
(AP)—Justin Verlander pitched his third career nohitter, punctuating a dominant season with an overpowering performance to lead the Houston Astros past the Toronto Blue Jays 2-0 on Sunday.

Verlander struck out 14 and allowed just one runner, walking Cavan Biggio with one out in the first inning.

Verlander also became the first pitcher to throw two nohitters as a visitor in the same park—he also threw one at Rogers Centre in 2011 with Detroit. His other no-no was in 2007 for the Tigers against Milwaukee.

The 36-year-old Verlander joined Nolan Ryan (seven), Sandy Koufax (four) and Bob Feller, Cy Young and Larry Corcoran (three) in rarefied air on the no-hitter list

Verlander threw a seasonhigh 120 pitches, mixing a fastball that reached the upper 90s mph with a sharp curve.

Verlander (17-5) is tied for the big league lead in wins. He tops the majors in strikeouts (257) and innings (193) and leads the AL with a 2.56 ERA.

Verlander retired the last 26 hitters in a row. But the game was scoreless going into the last inning—according to baseball rules, Verlander needed to pitch a complete game to get credit for a no-hitter.

That's when Canadian-born rookie Abraham Toro stepped up for the AL West leaders. The Astros newcomer hit a two-out, two-run homer in the ninth inning off Ken Giles (2-3) that cleared the way for Verlander to complete the no-hitter.

#### Phillies 5, Mets 2

In Philadelphia, Scott Kingery snapped an eighth-inning tie with a three-run double and the Phillies beat New York to avoid a three-game sweep.

Brad Miller hit a solo homer and a double for the Phillies, who pulled within  $2\frac{1}{2}$  games of the Chicago Cubs for the second NL wild card.

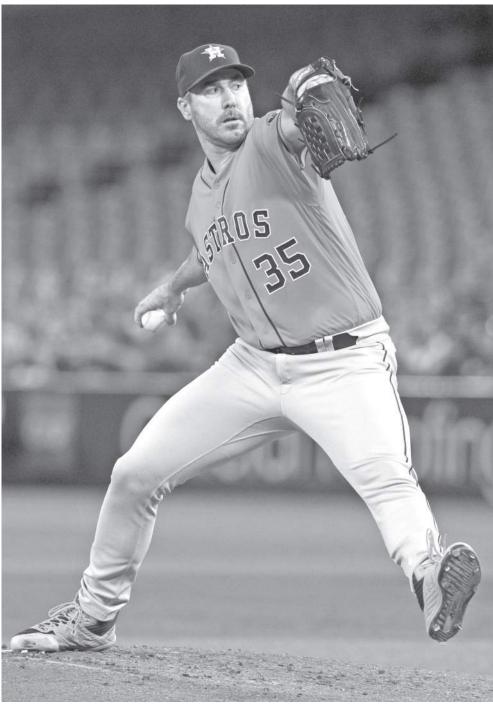
Pete Alonso hit his 43rd homer and Wilson Ramos extended his hitting streak to 25 consecutive games with a fourth-inning double for the Mets, who are four games behind the Cubs.

Daniel Zamora (0-1), who was just recalled from the minors, took the loss.

Hector Neris (3-5) got the final five outs for Philadelphia.

#### Yankees 5, Athletics 4

In New York, Brett Gardner and pinch-hitter Mike Ford hit back-to-back homers off A's closer Liam Hendriks, and the Yankees rallied from four runs down and walked off for the second straight game.



Gardner led off the ninth with a shot to right off Hendriks (4-2) and Ford followed with his 10th homer into the Yankees bullpen in right-center.

A's left-hander Sean Manaea pitched one-hit ball over five innings in his first start since shoulder surgery last September, and Oakland led 4-0 after 7 1/2 innings.

#### Twins 8. Tigers 3

In Detroit, Jake Cave and Nelson Cruz each drove in two runs and Minnesota beat the Tigers.

The Twins increased their lead in the AL Central to 5 ½ games over Cleveland.

Detroit has lost seven of at Comerica Park to avoid becoming the first big league team to lose 60 games at home

Cave's two-run single highlighted a five-run second inning.

Michael Pineda (11-5) got the win, giving up two runs on five hits and a walk in six innings. He struck out nine.

#### Rays 8, Indians 2

In St. Petersburg, Carlos Carrasco made his return to the mound from leukemia Sunday and the Cleveland pitcher was applauded by both teams in a touching scene Tampa Bay victory.

The right-hander entered in the seventh inning for his first major league appearance since being diagnosed with a treatable form of leukemia in June.

Charlie Morton earned his 14th win and Travis d'Arnaud had two RBIs off the bench as Tampa Bay swept a critical series between postseason

Morton (14-6) allowed one run and four hits in 5 1/3 innings. He struck out eight, walked three and threw a season-high 108 pitches.

#### Nationals 9, Marlins 3

eight and still needs four wins In Washington, Ryan Zimmerman celebrated his return from the injured list with one of the Nationals' four home runs as they completed a series sweep of Miami.

Zimmerman, who was reinstated Sunday after missing 36 games with Plantar Fasciitis in his right foot, connected for a two-run shot. Juan Soto and Anthony Rendon each homered for the second consecutive game for Washington, while Yan Gomes also had a home run.

Rendon set a new Nationals

(2005-present) single-season record for RBIs with 111. Vladimir Guerrero holds the franchise record of 131 set in 1999 when the team was in Montreal.

#### Cardinals 4, Reds 3, Game 1 Reds 5, Cardinals 3, Game 2

In St. Louis, Nick Senzel and Phillip Ervin hit solo home runs, Luis Castillo pitched six effective innings and Cincinnati Reds beat the Cardinals in the nightcap to split a doubleheader and end a four-game losing streak.

With the 4-3 win in the first game and the Chicago Cubs' 4-0 loss to Milwaukee, the Cardinals gained a half game in the NL Central to increase their division lead to three games. St. Louis has only lost two of its past 11 games and is 12-3 in its past 15.

Castillo (14-5) lasted six innings, giving up three runs and five hits with three walks. He struck out eight as the Reds' pitchers had 11 in the game.

#### Royals 6, Orioles 4

In Kansas City, Adalberto Mondesi matched a career high with four hits and stole

Houston Astros starting pitcher Justin Verlander throws against the Toronto Blue Jays during the first inning of a baseball game in Toronto, Sunday, Sept.

three bases in his return from the injured list, leading the Royals past Baltimore.

Meibrys Viloria drove in the go-ahead run for the Royals with a two-out single in the seventh inning. Kansas City took two of three in a series.

Mondesi led off the seventh with his third hit and stole second. With two outs, Alex Gordon drove him in with a tying double, and Gordon scored on Viloria's single to make it 5-4.

Whit Merrifield added a solo homer in the eighth.

#### Brewers 4, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Christian Yelich hit a three-run homer off Craig Kimbrel in the ninth inning, and Milwaukee shut out the Brewers for the second straight game.

Milwaukee took two of three in the weekend series to pull within three games of Chicago for the second NL wild card.

After Gio González walked four in three hitless innings, Jay Jackson (1-0) got six outs for his first major league win. Drew Pomeranz got two big outs in the eighth before Josh Hader finished the four-hitter.

Tyler Chatwood (5-3) took

#### Mariners 11, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Kyle Seager, Tom Murphy and Daniel Vogelbach hit home runs and Seattle beat Texas.

Seager sealed the victory with a three-run homer in the eighth inning.

Yusei Kikuchi (6-9) benefited from Seattle's four first-inning runs. Dee Gordon chased Brett Martin (1-3) from the game after just two outs with a two-run single.

Kikuchi allowed three runs in five innings. He has exceeded five innings in only one of his last six starts.

#### Pirates 6, Rockies 2

In Denver, Steven Brault hit his first major league homer and pitched effectively into the seventh inning to lead Pittsburgh over Colorado for a four-game sweep.

Adam Frazier homered on the first pitch of the game, the second straight day the Pirates

Brault (4-3) allowed only one hit until Nolan Arenado lined a two-out fastball into the seats in left field in the sixth for his 35th home run. Brault left in the seventh when the Rockies got a run on two hits and an error, but Richard Rodriguez got out of the jam by fanning Trevor Story.

#### Padres 8, Giants 4

In San Francisco, Ty France homered twice, Greg Garcia hit a leadoff drive and San Diego beat the Giants, as the home fans gave one more cheer for Pablo Sandoval.

Sandoval grounded out as a pinch-hitter in what could be his final game with the Giants. The 33-year-old former World Series MVP was activated off the injured list earlier in the day for a final at-bat under retiring manager Bruce Bochy.

Sandoval will undergo season-ending surgery on his right elbow Wednesday.

Eric Hosmer doubled, singled and tripled in his first three at-bats for San Diego. With a chance at the cycle, he walked in the seventh inning and struck out in the ninth.

#### Red Sox 4, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Xander Bogaerts had three hits, including a homer, and three RBIs as the Boston beat Los Angeles.

J.D. Martinez also went deep for the Red Sox, who went 6-2 on the trip and have won 11 of their last 15 to get within five games of the second AL wild card.

Albert Pujols had an RBI double in the third inning for his 3,185th career hit, passing Cal Ripken Jr. for 14th place. Justin Upton homered in the

Bogaerts and Martinez went back-to-back in the third.

#### Dodgers 4, Diamondbacks 3, 11 innings

In Phoenix, Cody Bellinger hit a tying homer in the ninth inning, pinch-hitter Joc Pederson went deep in the 11th and Los Angeles prevented a four-game sweep with a win over Arizona.

In a frightening scene, Dodgers reliever Dustin May was hit in the head by a line drive and stayed down for a few anxious moments in the middle of a hushed ballpark. But the pitcher ultimately stood up, was checked by a trainer and walked off the field without help.

#### **Braves 5, White Sox 3**

In Atlanta, Freddie Freeman homered twice off All-Star Lucas Giolito and drove in five runs, providing all the offense for the Braves against Chicago.

The Braves have won four straight are 12-2 since Aug. 16, moving 30 games over .500 for the first time since 2013. They have won a season-best nine straight home games to stay 5½ games ahead in the NL East.

# Djokovic out of US Open with bad shoulder

NEW YORK (AP)—Novak Djokovic's left shoulder was aching, his chances were fading in the fourth round against Stan Wawrinka and, soon enough, the U.S. Open's defending champion and No. 1 seed was out of the tournament, leaving to a chorus of boos.

Djokovic shook his head as he walked over to the chair umpire to say he was retiring from the match because of that shoulder while trailing 6-4, 7-5, 2-1 and being th

"The pain was constant for weeks now," Djokovic said.

Perhaps confused by the sudden turn of events, and likely disappointed in the brevity of the show they got to watch for their expensive tickets, some spectators jeered as Djokovic walked off the court in Arthur Ashe Stadium to head toward the locker room, his two equipment bags over his other shoulder. He responded with a thumbs-up.

"I'm sorry for the crowd. Obviously they came to see a full match, and just wasn't to be," Djokovic said at his news conference. "I mean, a lot of people didn't know what's happening, so you cannot blame them."

The 32-year-old Serb explained that he had been "taking different stuff to kill the pain instantly; sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't."

Djokovic had won 36 of his past 37 Grand Slam matches, and four of the last five major



titles, in one of the most dominant stretches the sport has seen. That pushed his Slam trophy total to 16, moving within four of Roger Federer's record 20, and within two of Rafael Nadal's 18.

"Look, it's no secret that I have, of course, desire and a goal to reach the most Slams, and reach Roger's record. But at the same time, it's a long road ahead hopefully for me. I hope I can play for many more

years. I'm planning to. I mean, I don't see an end behind the corner at all," said Djokovic, who had been 11-0 in fourth-round-

ers at Flushing Meadows until US Of this one. "Now it's a matter of keeping my body and mind in shape and trying to still peak at these kind of events that are majors and that are the most significant in our sport."

When it was over, Wawrin-ka gave Djokovic a hug.

"It's never the way you want to finish the match," said the No. 23-seeded Wawrinka, who will face No. 5 Daniil Medvedev

in the quarterfinals. "I feel sorry for Novak."

Djokovic entered the night with a 19-5 head-to-head edge against Wawrinka across their careers. This, though, was their first meeting since the 2016 U.S. Open final, won by Wawrinka.

According to the ATP, this was the 13th mid-match retirement of Djokovic's career, his sixth at a Grand Slam tournament.

This outcome scuttles the much-discussed possibility of a semifinal in New York between Djokovic and Federer, which would have been a rematch of their historic Wimbledon final in July. Djokovic won that one in an unprecedented fifth-set tiebreaker after nearly five hours.

The winner of Wawrinka vs. Medvedev will face the winner of Federer vs. Grigor Dimitrov in the semifinals.

Djokovic began complaining about his left shoulder during a second-round victory on Wednesday, when he repeatedly got massaged by a trainer during changeovers.

He won his next match Friday, looking good and declaring his shoulder much improved, although he refused to disclose any details of the injury or what type of treatment he had received.

While Djokovic is a righty, he uses his left arm for the ball tosses on his serves and to grip the racket for his two-fisted backhands.

His bid for a fourth U.S. Open championship suddenly dissipated Sunday at the conclusion of what for him amounted to a listless and ineffective effort.

Against Wawrinka, a threetime major champion himself, Djokovic never quite had the usual verve on his shots or range on his formidable service returns. He was out of sorts on all manner of shots, accumulating 30 unforced errors and only 12 winners through the first two sets.

"For sure, I could see some little (signs) that he was in trouble," Wawrinka said.

Djokovic managed to lead 3-0 and 4-1 in the second set, but that was just about all he had in him. Soon he was trying to take shortcuts to avoid lengthy points, and nothing was working.

When that set ended, Djokovic had a trainer on for a massage, but soon thereafter, his title defense was over.

"You just know when you know, I guess," Djokovic said, "when you feel like you're not able to hit (a) shot anymore."

#### Federer cruises

Roger Federer continued his run at the U.S. Open by easily dispatching David Goffin on Sunday in the Round of 16 match.

Under an open roof at Arthur Ashe Stadium, Federer took the match in three sets: 6-2, 6-2, 6-0. The match lasted just one hour and 18 minutes.

"It was great," Federer said in an interview after the match. "I had a great feeling today like I had in other matches."

No. 3 seed Federer aced No. 15-seeded Goffin 10 times, while Goffin did not score one. Federer outpaced Goffin in winners 35-8. The two tied in unforced errors with 17 each.

Federer will now face the winner of the match between Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov and Australian Alex de Minaur in the quarterfinals. It is his 13th appearance in the U.S. Open quarterfinals.

The match between Dimitrov and de Minaur will take place later Sunday.

# Serena rolls ankle, but still advances

Serena Williams was in pain—"acceptable" pain, her coach called it— after rolling her right ankle during the second set of a U.S. Open victory.

That was the bad news.

The good news for Williams as she pursues a seventh championship at Flushing Meadows and 24th Grand Slam singles title overall is that, while she reached the quarterfinals by beating No. 22 seed Petra Martic 6-3, 6-4 despite the ankle issue, No. 2 Ash Barty and No. 3 Karolina Pliskova both exited her side of the bracket Sunday.

Not that Williams seemed to care all that much about being one of only three of the top 12 seeded women who will still be around Monday.

"I can't afford to look at it that way. Every single match I have played, people come and they play their best. The women that I play are not generally playing at this level against other players in the locker room, so for me, I have to be the greatest, whether it's against the second seed, the No. 1 seed, or the No. 80th

player in the world," said Williams, who faces No. 18 Wang Qiang next. "I have to show up or else I'm going to go home."

Williams, who turns 38 this month, appeared to be cruising along to a straightforward victory when she took an awkward step while up at the net for a volley. She tumbled to the ground and sat there, cross-legged, right in the middle of Arthur Ashe Stadium for a few moments.

Williams has dealt with various health issues all season, including one that ended her stay at the Australian Open.

Might that sort of thing be happening again? Williams immediately asked for a trainer, who added tape to her lower right leg and foot during a medical timeout at the ensuing changeover.

Still, Martic thought Williams' play might actually have improved the rest of the way.

"She started going for even more, I think. She felt like maybe she couldn't move that well anymore," Martic said. "Her shots were really precise. Serve was unbelievable. And when she hits those backhands and those first serves that well, it's not easy to play against her."

Williams ended things by raising both arms after smacking an ace at 118 mph, her fastest of the afternoon, punctuating an overpowering performance that included 38 winners to Martic's 11.

"I didn't know what to expect from her ball. I knew she (hits it) hard," Martic said, "but until you feel it on your own racket, you just don't know what to expect."

The scene Sunday brought back memories of Williams' Australian Open quarterfinal in January against Pliskova. Williams was way ahead—holding a match point at 5-1, 40-30 in the third set—when she turned her left ankle awkwardly. From there, Williams was no longer, well, Williams, dropping every point she served the rest of the way.

She failed to convert four match points in all that day, ceded six games in a row and lost 7-5 in the third. That time, Williams didn't call for a

trainer, which surprised many. Didn't make that mistake this time. And a couple of hours later, she was walking without any apparent hitch in her step. She figured she'd know more about the ankle based on how it responds Monday; she plays Wang on Tuesday.

Williams has not managed to complete a non-Slam tournament in 2019, withdrawing from each with one ailment or another, including a viral illness, a hurt left knee and, most recently, back spasms. She hasn't won a title since returning to the tour after having a baby; her daughter, Olympia, was born exactly two years ago Sunday.

"Best day of my life," Williams called it.

Wang, who never had played in the fourth round at a major until Sunday, advanced by surprising French Open champion Barty 6-2, 6-4.

Pliskova, the 2016 U.S. Open runner-up, went home with a 6-7 (1), 6-3, 7-5 loss over nearly 2½ hours against 16th-seeded Johanna Konta of Britain.

# US tops Czechs to open World Cup bid

**SHANGHAI** (AP)—The first big celebratory reaction from the U.S. bench in this World Cup came just a couple of minutes after tipoff, when Myles Turner blocked a shot at the rim. And with that, the tone was set.

There is an emphasis on defense with this U.S. team, and it was evident from the outset of its Group E opener on Sunday. Donovan Mitchell scored 16 points to lead a balanced scoring night, and the Americans steadily pulled away to beat the Czech Republic 88-67 to begin their quest for a third consecutive World Cup title.

"That's got to be our calling card," U.S. coach Gregg Popovich said. "We're going to try to execute better and better as time goes on, but defensively we've got to put our money there. It's what we have to be about to have an opportunity."

Harrison Barnes added 14 points, Kemba Walker scored 13 and Jayson Tatum finished with 10 for the Americans. Turner had seven rebounds and a pair of blocked shots.

"As long as we win, that's all that matters," Tatum said.

Tomas Satoransky, the former Washington forward who was traded to Chicago over the summer, led the Czechs with 17 points.

While the Americans' 78game winning streak in international games with NBA players ended last month with a loss at Australia, their long winning streak in major tournaments continued. It's now at 54 games, starting with the bronze-medal game of the 2006 world championships and continuing with goldmedal runs at the 2007 FIBA Americas, 2008 Olympics, 2010 world championships, 2012 Olympics, 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics.

We did a lot of good things," Mitchell said. "We guarded it well. We've got a lot of things we can definitely work on, and I think this is a good start to the tournament."

The Czechs scored the first four points of the fourth quarter to get within 66-52, but the Americans weren't threatened. Walker made a 3-pointer to stop the mini-run, found Mitchell in the corner for another 3-pointer that made it 72-52 about a minute later and the outcome was academic from there.

The Czechs had their highlight run early for a quick 11-7 lead, and the couple thousand of their fans in Shanghaimost of them wearing either white or blue team jerseys, with a few Wizards jerseys for Satoransky mixed in therewere roaring.

It didn't last long. After a 9-0 run by the



Czechs, order was quickly re- utes. Everybody got some minstored. The Americans scored utes. Everybody got to play."

the next 10 points, kickstarting what became a 29-9 run in all, and led by as many as 16 before going into the half with a 43-29 edge.

And it was defense that carried the Americans. Over a 10-minute stretch of the half, the Czechs went 4 for 20 with seven turnovers.

"The chemistry is building," Barnes said. "Looking forward to it continuing to build.

This was the first World Cup game for the Czechs since 1982, when the tournament was called the world championship and the country was still Czechoslovakia. That nation went 0-3 against the U.S. in past world championship matchups

#### Greece 85, **Montenegro 60**

Giannis Antetokounmpo stole the ball at one end, dribbled behind his back around midcourt, kept going and took off from just below the foul line before unleashing a dunk.

The NBA MVP sent a message on Sunday. So did his team.

Turning it into a rout by halftime, Greece opened its World Cup schedule with an easy victory over Montenegro in Group F at Nanjing. Antetokounmpo had 10 points and eight rebounds in only 16 minutes.

It was 42-16 at the half. Big minutes were not required.

"It was a great win today," Antetokounmpo said. "A lot of guys played well. I think coach did a great job managing min-

Georgios Printezis led Greece with 16 points and Georgios Papagiannis added 15 on 7 for 8 shooting.

"When you play for WORLD CUP the national team, you China 2019 don't only play for yourself," Antetokounmpo said. "You represent every single Greek person."

> Nikola Vucevic led Montenegro with 12 points.

#### Australia 108, Canada 92

At Dongguan, Canada came to the World Cup expecting that its group would be extremely challenging, and Australia proved that to be correct.

Matthew Dellavedova scored 24 points, and the Australians opened the fourth quarter on a huge run to pull away and beat Canada 108-92 in a Group H opener.

"Good to start the tournament with a win," Australia's Chris Goulding said. "Our first half, we showed we can do some really good stuff.

Goulding scored 16, Patty Mills had 15 and Joe Ingles finished with 13 points and nine assists for Australia. Andrew Bogut added 12 points on 6 for 7 shooting, plus grabbed nine rebounds, and Aron Baynes scored 10 for the winners.

Khem Birch scored 18 for Canada, and Cory Joseph had 16.

Australia led 52-40 at the half, but Canada roared out of the gate in the third quarter on a 25-7 run over the first 5:20.

That put Canada up 65-59, and seemed to put the Australians on the ropes.

The Boomers rallied.

Canada's lead was 77-76 going into the fourth quarter, but the last 10 minutes were all Australia. An 8-0 run by the Aussies put them on top to stay, and they wound up outscoring the Canadians 28-6 over the first 8:44 of the final period.

The loss put Canada in a likely must-win scenario against Lithuania on Tuesday.

"I thought the start wasn't very good for us, I didn't think the end was very good and I think the middle was excellent," Canada coach Nick Nurse said. "We didn't seem to be catching many breaks or the ball bouncing our way early, but we regrouped and after halftime we came out and put a heck of a third quarter together."

It was the sixth straight World Cup loss for Canada; the Canadians went 0-5 at the world championships in 2010 and didn't qualify for the tournament in 2014.

#### France 78, Germany 74

At Shenzhen, France opened the game on a 21-4 run and held on to beat Germany behind 26 points from Evan Fournier.

Johannes Voigtmann scored 25 points and Dennis Schroder had 23 for Germany in the Group G opener.

#### Lithuania 101, Senegal 47

At Dongguan, Lithuania had seven players in double figures and held Senegal to 29% shooting in a Group H opener. Domantas Sabonis, Jonas Valanciunas and Mantas Kalnietis each had 13 points to lead the winners.

#### Turkey 86, Japan 67

At Shanghai, Turkey got its

United States' Jaylen Brown reaches for the ball against Czech Republic during a Group E match for the FIBA Basketball World Cup at the Shanghai Oriental Sports Center in Shanghai on Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019.

Group E schedule started with a wire-to-wire win over Japan behind 17 points apiece from Ersan Ilyasova and Melih Mahmutoglu. Rui Hachimura scored 15 points for Japan, as did Nick Fazekas.

#### **Dominican Republic 80,** Jordan 76

At Shenzhen, Victor Liz scored 15 points to lead the Dominican Republic to a Group G win. Ahmad Al Dwairi had 34 points and 10 rebounds for Jordan, which got 24 points from Dar Tucker. Jordan was down by 16 points late in the third quarter, then pulled into a 64-64 tie early in the fourth after a 22-6 run. Jordan took a pair of one-point leads late, but the Dominicans finished on a 7-2 run.

#### Brazil 102, **New Zealand 94**

At Nanjing, Brazil outscored New Zealand 28-12 in the third quarter and held on to win a Group F opener. Leandro Barbosa led Brazil with 22 points. Corey Webster scored 19 for New Zealand.

#### Kyrie, KD'pushing' Nets to sign Carmelo

**NEW YORK**—For a guy who can't find an NBA job or even get a look from a depleted Team USA, Carmelo Anthony has his supporters.

The latest vote of confidence comes from the Brooklyn Nets, where Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving are both reportedly lobbying management to sign the 16year NBA veteran.

Frank Isola of The Athletic reported Thursday that the Nets' newly acquired stars are "pushing" for the team to sign Anthony.

Anthony hasn't played since the Houston Rockets shipped him to the Chicago Bulls early last season in a deal that saw the Bulls immediately release him. Anthony played just 10 games with the Rockets before the team removed him from the rotation in November and essentially fired him.

Anthony is known as a hard worker and a good teammate. But his reputation as a gunner past his prime unwilling to accept a secondary role off an NBA bench appears to have prevented him from finding work.

His former Denver Nuggets teammate Chauncey Billups summed up the situation as "scoring 30 meant too much to Melo."

The New York Knicks reportedly targeted Anthony in free agency if they were able to land Irving and Durant. But when they whiffed this summer on landing premium free-agent talent, it apparently didn't make sense to add Anthony to their roster.

The Lakers also reportedly showed interest in Anthony this summer, but ultimately passed.

But it appears that Anthony has hope with the Nets with some prominent voices in his corner.

With Durant expected to miss most if not all of next season recovering from the Achilles tear he suffered in the NBA Finals, the Nets could certainly use added scoring punch.

There's a spot on Brooklyn's bench to spell wing scorers like Joe Harris, Caris LeVert and Taurean Prince.

The question remains, as always: Would Anthony accept that role?

# Pardz Ballerz, Connie's BBQ prevail

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com



The Pardz Ballerz demolished Max's Restaurant, 105-66, while

Connie's BBQ edged out Docomo Pacific 73-66, in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League games over the weekend at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

Pardz cruised to the win after making over 20 points in all four quarters, while Connie's BBQ secured the victory after a strong start.

A 29-17 scoring run in the first period gave Pardz the early double-digit lead and they remained consistent on offense in the last three quarters to reach past the century mark and hammer the hapless



Max's Restaurant.

Bryan Santos drilled three triples and finished with 11 points for Pardz just in the first quarter alone to give their

team the control of the onesided match. Joseph Torres then picked up where Santos left off to hand Pardz its third straight victory. Torres led Pardz with his 29 points, while Santos added 17.

Patrick Salalila had 15 markers for Max's Restaurant, which never scored more than The Pardz Ballerz's Lucky Jose faces three Max's Restaurant defenders on his way to the basket during the second quarter of their game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Saturday at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

18 points in each of the four quarters to lose by a big margin.

Meanwhile, Connie's BBQ buckled down to work right in the first quarter to build a baker's dozen lead, 24-11, and held on in the fourth to notch win No. 6.

Seven different players delivered for Connie's BBQ in the first period, while only three scored for Docomo.

Docomo then managed to rally in the fourth frame after earning 23 points—its best output in a quarter—but backto-back triples from Joel Danao and Nelson Cabang and two straight baskets from Austin Camacho foiled the comeback bid.

Camacho finished the match with 10 points, while Ronald Esmores led Connie's BBQ with his 11 markers. Mel Manibusan had 21 for Docomo, which played without its main scorer, Shane Deleon Guerrero.

#### First Game

Connie's BBO 73—Esmores 11, Camacho 10, Barbo 9, Danao 8, Echavez 8, Cabang 7, Bongalam 7, Dayao 6, Centina 4, Rodriguez 3.

Docomo Pacific 66— Manibusan 21, Diaz 19, Sablan 8, Hayes 6, Sanchez 6, Sanciangco 4, Mendiola 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-11, 39-26, 57-43, 73-66

#### **Second Game**

Pardz Ballerz 105—Torres 29, Santos 17, Jose 12, Ritual 11, Bernardo 11, Romo 8, Ebuen 6, Galulu 4, Saplan 2, Umali 1.

Max's Restaurant 66—Salalila 15, Herrera 11, Raynor 8, Lerio 8, Rotap 6, Balignasay 5, Loyola 4, Dolotina 4, Norita 2, Manansala 2, Flores 2.

Scoring by quarters: 29-17, 54-31, 76-51, 105-66

# Seahawks finalize deal to acquire Clowney



Wash. (AP)— The Seattle Seahawks finalized their trade for

standout pass rusher Jadeveon Clowney on Sunday, sending two players and a 2020 third-round pick to the Houston Texans.

Seattle bolstered one of its biggest needs heading into the season by landing Clowney after his contract dispute with the Texans. Even if it turns out to be a one-year rental, the Seahawks may have solved their need for an elite pass rusher

RENTON, for a team that should be a ans. The outside linebacker contender in the NFC.

> The Seahawks sent veteran former first-rounder Barkevious Mingo and second-year pass rusher Jacob Martin to Houston. Mingo was moved to defensive end during the offseason after spending the past few seasons playing outside linebacker. Martin, a sixth-round pick in 2018, showed flashes of potential in his rookie season but had just three sacks and was going to be a situational pass rusher this season.

> Clowney held out from training camp with the Tex-

was unhappy about Houston using the franchise tag on him and no progress on a long-term contract. But the Seahawks had both the salary-cap space to absorb Clowney's cost and the need for help on the defensive line.

Seattle also re-signed quarterback Geno Smith on Sunday to serve as the backup to Russell Wilson. Smith was temporarily released on Saturday as part of the cuts to get to the 53-man roster limit as Seattle needed the extra spot to reach the mandated roster limit. The trade of Mingo

and Martin opened up the needed roster spot and the veteran quarterback was brought back. Smith beat out Paxton Lynch for the backup job during the preseason.

The 26-year-old Clowney is a three-time Pro Bowl selection. He had nine sacks in 15 games last season. He had a career-high 9 1/2 sacks two years ago when he played a full NFL season for the only time. His speed coming off the edge could create all manner of trouble for opposing offensive tackles, especially playing in the noise of Seattle.

#### **GROSS**

From Page 28

Shaun Peel, Norman Turner, Rene Doel, Richard Harris, Raymond Abdy, Euan McLean, Dan Copeland, Steven Cragg, Steven Magarry, Patrick McCarthey, Rodney Watson, and Tim Johnstone.

The Oceania Masters Athletics Championships started last Saturday and will run for a week. New Zealand's Michael Bond won the competition's first gold medal after ruling the 5,000m run in the men's 75 to 89 age group. The 76-year-old runner clocked in at 24:27 to beat Australia's Peter Sandery (24:50), Stephen Bark (29:38), Bryan

Thomas (29:56), and Bob Schickert (34:40). Susanne Wilson, also from the Land Down Under, was the first female gold medalist of the tournament after topping the 50 to 79 age group's 5,000m race. The 53-year-old timed in at 21:30 to win against three fellow Australian runners and New Zealand's Lucy Andrews (24:35).

Meanwhile, besides competing in the Oceania Masters Athletics Championships, Gross is also the CNMI's delegate to the Oceania Masters Council Election and attended last week's road measuring course conducted by the International Association of Athletics Federations.

#### CNMI

From Page 28

Blanco added that since the CNMI and Guam teams are so tight-knit, it would be better to have one strong Marianas team competing against other regions in the Pacific.

"A lot of times, when we're going off island, we're traveling at a disadvantage because we only have 18 players and we're facing a full squad. We're thinking about pulling our resources together and at the same time, it's a great thing to have a combined Marianas team because we're a brotherhood here," he said.

Because this would be the first time that Guam and Saipan football teams will work together to represent the Marianas, Blanco said the challenge would be learning each other's defensive and offensive techniques.

"I don't think that's (combining CNMI and Guam players) really happened much in our history, so it's something nice to do. Some of the things we have to go over are what kind of offensive schemes we're going to run, what defense schemes we're going to push. A lot of the times, the guys are really professional, so we know how to go along with each other's offense and defense, so it shouldn't be a really hard thing to do," he said.

Meanwhile, Guerrero said that the importance of this collaboration is keeping football alive in the Marianas for the generations to come and honoring the brotherhood between the two islands.

The Battle of the Pacific is set for Feb. 29 next year and the combined CNMI-Guam players will go up against a champion team from the Philippines.

#### TEEN

From Page 28

Tournament and challenged two teams from China-Beijing Elite Core Football Club and Beijing 97 United Football Club.

"Six U15 players joined the tournament and played against the Beijing teams. It was a great opportunity for them to feel and play in the atmosphere of international tournament with a lot of supporters and spectators. Other U15 players also came and supported the tournament, so they also got to experience the excitement of the international games," Mita said.

"We hear that football is very popular in Indonesia, and a lot of spectators are expected at the AFC U16 tournament. It was great that our U15 players had a glimpse of what it will be like to play in that kind of setting," the NMIFA official added.

In Indonesia, the Teen Ayuyus will also duel China, the Philippines, and Brunei besides the host squad. The CNMI bets will depart Saipan for Jakarta



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI head coach Michiteru Mita shouts at instructions to the CNMI Boys U18 National Team during their game against Beijing Elite Core Football Club in the Northern Marianas Invitational Football Tournament late last month at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

on Sept. 12, leaving them with a little over a week to get ready for the Group G qualifying tournament.

"The next 10 days leading up to the AFC tournament will be important to maintain

the players' high spirits and good conditioning, so we will need to focus on individual conditioning. I am reminding our players to eat well and get enough rest and sleep. This is basic, but extremely

important for conditioning and getting the players ready for international travel and matches. We are also counting on support from their families, as conditioning starts at home," Mita said.

Saipan Tribune
100115

**US** tops Czechs to open **World Cup bid** 

**PAGE 26** 



**28** TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Teen Ayuyus on track

#### Gross to compete in Oceania Masters meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Micronesian Games medalist Nick Gross is in Queensland, Australia to represent the CNMI to the 20th Oceania Masters Athletics Championships.

Gross, who won a silver medal for the Commonwealth in last year's Micro Games in Yap, will be competing in his favorite event—the javelin throw—in the men's 30 to 49

age group today at 8am (same time on Saipan) at the Mackay Aquatic and Recreation Complex. The Public School

System Athletic Program director is the OCEANIA gram non-Australian athlete in the javelin throw event in his age group, which is dominated by individuals in their mid 30s.

> The 40-year-old Gross will go up against James Stewart, Rob Picking, Jamie Muscat,

#### See GROSS on Page 27



The CNMI's Nick Gross is seen here competing in the javelin throw in the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap.



Players of the CNMI Boys U15 National Team train at the Oleai Sports Complex Field last week in preparation for the Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

he CNMI Boys U15 National Team is peaking right heading into the Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers.

The squad is on the final stage of its preparation for the AFC competition that will run

from Sept. 14 to 22 in Jakarta, Indonesia and head coach Michiteru Mita likes the progress his crew has been showing.

The condition of the team as a whole

is getting better each day. We are trying everything we can, like practicing on a natural grass field (Oleai Sports Complex) and having physical fitness training at the peace park (Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park) to get ready," said Mita.

The Northern Mariana Is-

lands Football Association technical MPIONSHIP director and the 22 members of the na-

tional squad started doing drills at the Oleai pitch instead of using the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last week and will continue to do so this week.

"We started practicing last week on the natural grass field in Oleai because the AFC tournament will be played at a natural grass field. Players are noticing the differences from the artificial turf, for example, how the ball bounces and how the pass goes," Mita said.

"We are quite fortunate to be able to practice on both artificial turf at NMISTC and natural grass at Oleai, and we are grateful for the support from the community (groups which moved their practices/games to give way to the Teen Ayuyus). Players get better adjusting to different conditions of the international tournament," he added.

Mita also took note of how the team's preparation for the AFC qualifier got a boost after some of their players competed in the Northern Marianas Invitational Football

See TEEN on Page 27

#### By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com

The football teams of Guam and the CNMI have been discussing combining the two groups to create a Marianas squad that would represent the region to the Battle of the Pacific.

According to the CNMI Sharks coach John Blanco, he and Team Guam's Joey Guerrero have been talking about the the possibility of bringing the two groups together for a stronger, much bigger Mari-

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA The CNMI Sharks and Team Guam players and officials pose for a photo after their game in the 2019 Marianas Bowl last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

## CNMI, Guam may join forces for Battle of the Pacific

anas team.

"We do have a game in the Philippines so I was talking with coach Joey Guerrero and we were discussing about col-

Blanco said that idea

laborating and having a team Marianas, instead of just a CNMI Team," was brought up because the CNMI Sharks are at a disadvantage when competing in off-island tournaments because

they only have 18 players, while normally, other squads have 45.

See CNMI on Page 27

